

Philemon corniculatus. Leather Head.—Only occasionally seen in the forest country, feeding on nectar of eucalypts. The first year they were plentiful but this last time scarce.

Anthus australis. Pipit.—Seen in the open grass lands but not numerous.

Ægitha temporalis. Red-browed Finch.—Not numerous but seen often in the company of Blue Wrens and Silvereyes.

Oriolus sagittatus. Olive-backed Oriole.—Seen occasionally but not common.

Ptilonorhynchus violaceus. Satin Bower-bird.—I heard this bird once.

Corvus coronoides (?). Raven (?).—Either this bird or *C. ceciliæ* (Crow) was often seen about the sea beaches, feeding on anything dead it could find.

Strepera graculina. Pied Bell-Magpie.—This was seen occasionally, especially where native or garden fruit was to be found.

Cracticus torquatus. Grey Butcher-bird.—Seldom seen.

Gymnorhina tibicen. Black-backed Magpie.—A pair of these had reared two young close to where I was staying at the edge of the lake. Otherwise not a common bird.

Passer domesticus. House Sparrow.—I only saw this bird near the village of Laurieton.

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling.—This likewise was only seen near the village.

Birds and Grasshoppers.—The abundant rainfall of 1931 resulted in an abnormal growth of grasses and other vegetation throughout Victoria, and a consequent abnormal increase in the numbers of grasshoppers and other insects. In the Myrtleford and Porepunkah districts, grasshoppers are in millions on the Ovens River flats, and but for the toll taken by the birds, there are indications that they would cause much trouble to pastoralists.

In the grass paddocks hundreds of birds are to be seen. Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*) and White-faced Herons (*Notophojæ novæ-hollandiæ*), are in small flocks in every paddock, small family parties of Magpie Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) are to be seen everywhere—in greater numbers than I have ever seen before—in a distance of about three miles along the railway line I counted thirty-four Kestrels (*Falco cenchroides*) and eleven Kookaburras (*Dacelo gigas*). The birds were all busily engaged in catching grasshoppers. The good which is done by these birds is known by everyone, but it may be a surprise to many to find that the much despised Raven (*Corvus coronoides*) was in greater numbers than any other of the enemies of the grasshoppers. On one day in January two flocks of Ravens, each of which must have contained at least five hundred birds, were seen feasting on the grasshoppers, and similar sights could doubtless be seen all along the valley.
—R. S. MILLER, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.