

Report on a Trip to Mount Grattai from Moree

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On November 1 Messrs. A. C. Cameron and H. G. Paul left the camp at "Bullerana" to visit Mount Grattai, an article dealing with the bird-life of which appeared in *The Emu*, Vol. XXX, p. 10: "Where East Meets West," by B. S. Morse and C. Sullivan. After spending the night at the home of Mr. W. M. Brennan, R.A.O.U., we departed the next day, under the guidance of Mr. Brennan and Mr. Herb. Smith, the Forest Overseer. We arrived at our camp, 56 miles south-east from Moree, shortly after midday, and spent the afternoon exploring the neighbourhood. This small locality closely resembles the coastal brush areas, and is a complete contrast to the scenery on the "Bullerana" plains. The grandeur of the rugged mountain scenery provides a perfect setting for the numerous streams, waterfalls, and other beauty spots, in which the district abounds.

The morning of November 3 was spent in further expeditions amongst the mountains, and a good list of nesting birds was made. Leaving this fascinating spot at noon, we arrived back at Moree after a most delightful excursion.

One depressing feature is the way in which the noble trees along the Berriga Creek Road have been mutilated and cleared. For a depth of two chains and a length of two miles the natural beauty has been spoilt by the fire and

axe of man. However, it is pleasing to note that some ten thousand acres of Mount Grattai and the surrounding country have been reserved as a sanctuary for the flora and fauna through the efforts of Messrs. W. M. Brennan and E. H. F. Swain.

The following is a list of the birds noted which were not seen* at "Bullerana":—

Eopsaltria australis. Southern Yellow Robin.—Quite plentiful, although no nest was found. A pair of young birds, just able to fly, was observed.

Scythrops novæ-hollandiæ. Channel-billed Cuckoo.—One pair seen and several more heard. Mr. Smith informs me that the young of these birds are often seen there.

Aprosmictus scapularis. King Parrot.—Quite plentiful in the brush, and out in the forest areas bordering the mountains. It appears that they usually select the latter position for nesting.

Cheramœca leucosterna. White-backed Swallow.—Several pairs seen hawking near the edge of the brush.

Lophoictinia isura. Square-tailed Kite.—Three birds definitely identified.

Gerygone olivacea. White-throated Warbler.—Many pairs seen, and one nest found. The song is shorter and weaker than that of the coastal birds, but in all other respects the forms are identical.

Platycercus elegans. Crimson Rosella.—Plentiful in the scrub. One partly-eaten bird was found, probably the victim of a fox.

Meliphaga melanops. Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. *Meliphaga fusca*. Fuscous Honeyeater. *Meliphaga chrysops*. Yellow-faced Honeyeater.—All plentiful, the last two nesting (eggs and young respectively).

Edolisoma tenuirostre. Jardine Caterpillar-eater.—Several birds seen and many more heard.

Glossopsitta concinna. Musk Lorikeet. *Glossopsitta pusilla*. Little Lorikeet.—Both species were feeding on flowering *Angophora* trees.

Strepera graculina. Pied Currawong.—One bird flew over, several heard.

Ægitha temporalis. Red-browed Finch. *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*. Brush Cuckoo. *Falcunculus frontatus*. Eastern Shrike-Tit. *Myiagra rubecula*. Leaden Flycatcher. *Neositta chrysoptera*. Orange-winged Sittella.—Odd birds of all these species were seen.

Neophema elegans. Elegant Grass Parrot.—A single bird was seen on November 2, and three were seen next morning in the same place. Two of these were watched for some time in the hope of finding a nest, but without result.

The "oom-oom" call of the *Podargus* (*Podargus strigoides*) was heard around the camp.

A young Bronze-Cuckoo was found in nest of *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*.

Birds nesting were:—Southern Yellow Robin, Grey Fantail, White-throated Warbler, Brown Weebill, Olive-backed Oriole, Fuscous and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Yellow-tailed Thornbill, Whistling Eagle, Willie-Wagtail, and Blue Wren.

*A few of the birds in this list were noted at "Bullerana" after Mr. Cameron's departure.—Ed.