

## Birds of the District between Norseman and Lake Grace, Western Australia

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The interesting notes on the birds of Norseman, Western Australia, have decided me to write a few additional notes, which I have gathered in various trips through the country mentioned, and through much more territory in an area from Norseman west to Lake Grace and north to the Coolgardie railway line; also south to the coast. This is a large tract of country about 400\* square miles and much alike all over, but it has various types in close proximity, such as salt lake country grown with saltbush and samphire, salt swamps, sheets of almost fresh water and water so salt that it leaves inches of salt when dry. There is some timber country—salmon and morrel mainly, also gimlet. In the southern parts, the Phillips River district, the timber is yate, mort, etc. Various species of mallee are prevalent all through the area. A large part of the above-mentioned country is sand-plain, which is probably the most interesting from an ornithological point of view.

Many of the rarer species are observed only by the exercise of patience. Of the birds mentioned by Mr. Whitlock, I will omit those that I am familiar with. These I have observed almost all over the above-mentioned area.

The Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*) I have only seen at Norseman and farther north. The Red-backed Kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*) is in the same category. The Chestnut Quail-Thrush (*Cinclosoma castanotum*) is only at Norseman and Widgeemooltha farther north. The Blue-and-white Wren (*Malurus cyanotus*) is in the north-eastern portion, as far west as Southern Cross.

The following is a short list of and notes on some of the species recorded at Hatter's Hill. This is on the No. 1 rabbit-proof fence, and is almost the centre of the area.

The Emu (*Dromaius novæ-hollandiæ*) is not at all uncommon. A family, comprising the old birds and six young, used to visit our camp at intervals.

*Corvus* spp. were scarce except on the coast, and the birds were probably of both species.

Also seen were Mallee-fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Bronze-wing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera*), Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*), Australian Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*), Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaëtus audax*), Little Eagle (*Hieraaëtus morphnoides*), Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*), Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*), Little Falcon (*F. longipennis*), Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius semitorquatus*),

\* Quære 4,000.—ED.

Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*), Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis*), Red-capped Parrot (*Purpureicephalus spurius*), Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*), White-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus baudini*).

I still maintain that this last is a variant found in the red gum country only.

Other birds listed are Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), Australian Tree-Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*), Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*), Brown Flycatcher (*Micræa fascians*), Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*), Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*), Western Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla rufiventris*), Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novæ-hollandiæ*), White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albigrons*), Brown Weebill (*Smicrornis brevirostris*), Broad-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza apicalis*), Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*A. chrysorrhoa*), Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*), Shy Ground-Wren (*Hylacola cauta*), Black-capped Sittella (*Neositta pileata*), Mistletoe-bird (*Dicæum hirundinaceum*), Yellow-tailed Pardalote (*Pardalotus xanthopygus*), Red-tipped Pardalote (*P. ornatus*), White-eared Honeyeater (*Meliphaga leucotis*), Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (*M. ornata*), Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Gliciphila melanops*), Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochæra carunculata*), Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*), Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*), Black Honeyeater (*Myzomela nigra*), Pipit (*Anthus australis*), Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*), Collared Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*), Black-throated Butcher-bird (*C. nigrogularis*), Western Magpie (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*).

Almost all the birds mentioned are found all over the area, an exception being *Purpureicephalus spurius*, which I have noted in the southern portion of this area only, as far north as Lake Grace. Additional to this list I append various odd notes of birds in unusual localities.

The Western Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*) is on the south coast as far east as I have been, some miles east of Hopetoun. The *Meliornis* family is here represented by *Meliornis niger*, whilst *M. novæ-hollandiæ* is found farther inland.

*Calamanthus* is well represented throughout this area, as are *Malurus* and *Stipiturus*. On the northern portion such birds as *Kakatoë roseicapilla*, *Leptolophus hollandicus*, *Melopsittacus undulatus* and *Tæniopygia castanotis* are found. I have known these birds to go as far south as Lake Grace at times, chiefly in drought times.

Further reference to birds of this area is to be found in "The Birds of Lake Grace," in *The Emu*, vol. xxxiii, p. 103.