

so, and when I have been unable to draw conclusions I have still reported the observations, as this indicates where additional watching may yield results.

REFERENCES

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8. Hill, G. F. 'Ornithological Notes, Barclay Expedition,' *Emu*, vol. 12, 1913, p. 238.
9. Campbell, A. J. 'The *Gymnorhina* or Australian Magpies,' *Roy. Soc. Vic.*, vol. VII, 1894, p. 202.
10. Prescott, J. A. A Soil Map of Australia, C.S.I.R. Bulletin 177.

Note.—References 1, 2, 3 and 5 occur in Part I only. On page 244 reference 5 should have been to A. J. Campbell's *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*, p. 296, a transposition of all reference numbers, consequent upon the division of the paper into two parts, being responsible.

Winter Observations around Melbourne

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During the months of June, July and August, the official winter-time, bird observing can be just as interesting as other times of the year. Here are a few notes taken by me around Melbourne during the winter of 1945.

Fishermen's Bend

16/6/45. Amongst the many ducks on the 'Pit,' one Wood-Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*) was noted, a new species for my 'Bend' list.

15/7/45. A Little Crake (*Porzana pusilla*) was seen feeding near a bed of yellow buttons (*Cotula*) and reeds on the pond near the old rifle-butts. Two pairs of Blue-winged Shovellers (*Spatula rhynchotis*) were noted on the Pit. A pair of Ravens (*Corvus coronoides*) was observed near the mouth of the Yarra, a further addition to the 'Bend' list. Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*), Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) and over 50 Double-banded Dotterels (*Charadrius bicinctus*) were also seen this day. Near the Princes Pier a Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) was noted.

22/7/45. A Little Crake (*Porzana pusilla*) was again noted at the same pond as previously—probably the same bird. Three Bald Coots (*Porphyrio melanotus*) were flushed from the reed-bed and Little Grass-birds (*Megalurus gramineus*) were calling at the same pond. The Crested

Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) was again observed in Hobson's Bay near the Princes Pier.

23/8/45. Five Fairy Terns (*Sterna nereis*) and over 30 Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*) were resting on a sand-spit. First nests of the Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) were found to-day—two nests, each containing the usual clutch of two eggs. [This species nests in numbers along the slightly-elevated grassy ridges, sometimes amongst the mauve flowers of *Mesembryanthemum*].

25/8/45. An additional nest of a Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) was found. This nest contained one egg. A Fairy Tern (*Sterna nereis*) was again noted, also five Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Erolia acuminata*), the first for some months. Eight Double-banded Dotterels (*Charadrius bicinctus*) were observed, this being the final note made of them. They usually leave the Bend towards the end of August. The nesting sites of the Red-capped Dotterels were not in use when Mr. C. E. Bryant visited the Bend on September 8. Evidently the first broods had been hatched.

Sandringham

During July at Sandringham quite a number of Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) and White-eared Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga leucotis*) were noted. These species, together with the Yellow-winged Honeyeaters (*Meliornis novæ-hollandiæ*), 'Greenies' (*Meliphaga penicillata*) and Spinebills (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) were attracted by the flowering lucerne hedges. Bronzewing Pigeons (*Phaps chalcoptera*) were noted on the outskirts of the Royal Melbourne Golf Club. On the morning of July 13, 1945, I flushed a Golden-headed Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola exilis*) from a heath patch. Its bright winter plumage was most apparent. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Coracina novæ-hollandiæ*) were noted often during the month.

Wattle Park

Visits to Wattle Park were made in July and August. A small flock of Little Thornbills (*Acanthiza nana*) was noted in the wattles bordering Elgar Road. On each occasion they were with a flock of Silvereyes (*Zosterops lateralis*). A pair of Grey Currawongs (*Strepera versicolor*) had taken up residence there for the time being. I watched one knocking gum-moth cocoons from the trees and flying down and quickly piercing the cocoon and extracting the larvae with its strong bill. These birds are adept at knocking bark off the trees while clinging to the trunk, and feeding on the insects thus exposed. These Currawongs devour spider and web complete, should a web appear before



Red-capped Dotterel at its eggs. Fishermen's Bend, near Melbourne.

Photo. by C. E. Bryant.

them. Bronzewing Pigeons (*Phaps chalcoptera*) were about at the Park and a pair of Tawny Frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*) was also observed.

Ashburton

A Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*) was noted there on 24/6/45 and also in August.

19/8/45. Great numbers of Flame Robins (*Petroica phoenicea*) were seen on the lawns of the East Malvern Links, also a party of eight Pipits (*Anthus australis*). First nests of the Yellow-tailed Thornbills (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) were found. One nest contained two well-developed young, whilst the other contained three eggs. The entrance of each of the nests was almost hidden low down in the nest, whilst the top nest was most conspicuous and well lined. White-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) were building in one of the few remaining gum trees there.

Caulfield

2/8/45. At 10.30 a.m., I heard the calls of an Olive-backed Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*) coming strongly from a clump of gum trees near St. Mary's Church in Glen Eira Road. I could not locate the bird. The next morning when passing the same spot I heard some calls like the chuckling notes of the Rosella Parrot (*Platycercus eximius*), and there, in a budding Cootamundra wattle, was an Olive-backed Oriole, feeding on small caterpillars. This was probably the same bird that I heard calling on the previous day. This is my earliest note for the Oriole, which usually arrives around Melbourne in late September.

Hurstbridge

Visits to the Hurstbridge and Eltham districts in July revealed numbers of Brown Weebills (*Smicrornis brevirostris*) in the scrub. Birds flocking in parties through the bush is an always apparent feature in these districts, up to fifteen different species being noted in some parties. Returning from a visit to Hurstbridge on 1/7/45 a pair of Galahs (*Kakatoë roseicapilla*) was observed near the railway at Watsonia.

Altona

On a visit to the Salt Works in June, one Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) and one Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Erolia acuminata*) were the only migratory waders seen. Twenty-five Banded Stilts (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*) were also noted there.