

REFERENCES:

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References to works listed in the previous parts of this series are not repeated here.

Further Notes on the Birds of Toolern Vale

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After four years' acquaintance with the sanctuary owned by our member, Mr. V. R. Davey, thirty miles west of Melbourne, our bird list has grown to the number of ninety species. An analysis of the list proves of value because it reveals the component parts or groupings of the birds in an interesting fashion.

With the data set down in former study meetings at the National Museum, groups of birds were prepared showing different horizons of arrivals in the south-eastern part of the continent. The oldest group is formed of passerine birds, representatives of forms found in Tasmania, which region may be taken as a key to identify the same group on the mainland, where, however, the members forming the group may be more or less obscured because of the presence of many other later arrivals.

At Toolern Vale sanctuary this first group consists of the Australian Ground-Thrush, Crescent Honeyeater and Yellow-winged Honeyeater (the two first-named being visitors in winter from higher country and the last a resident all the year), Flame Robin, Pink Robin and Scarlet Robin (again the first two being winter visitors and the last resident). However, the Tawny Frogmouth, Owlet-Nightjar, Golden Whistler, Grey Thrush, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-tailed Thornbill, Superb Blue Wren, Eastern Spinebill, Noisy Miner, White-fronted Chat, Spotted Ground-bird and Grey Butcher-bird and White-backed Magpie are resident all the year. The Striated Pardalote, although leaving its nesting trees, remains in the forest, while the Satin Flycatcher is only a chance caller whilst on migration. The Sacred Kingfisher, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike and Dusky Wood-Swallow are definitely migratory, arriving in September and leaving again in April. Some of the near relatives of the Tasmanian quota have changed sufficiently in plumage to have become separate species, namely the White-eared, White-naped and Black-

chinned Honeyeaters and Red Wattle-bird, besides the White-browed Scrub-Wren, Spotted-sided Finch and Grey Currawong. The Hooded Robin is strikingly different from the Dusky Robin of Tasmania, its nearest relative.

Another group of forest birds consists of Rufous Fantail, Olive-backed Oriole, Yellow Robin, Eastern Shrike-Tit, Striated Thornbill, Buff-tailed Thornbill, Speckled Warbler, White-throated Tree-creeper, Orange-winged Sittella, Grey-crowned Babbler, Brown Flycatcher, and Chough, all of them belonging to eastern Australia only and, except for the first two, resident. There are no representatives whatever of these in Tasmania. This group is also strong in Honeyeaters, namely, Yellow-tufted, White-plumed, Yellow-faced, Fuscous and Regent Honeyeaters.

The most striking group of all, however, is the inland or interior quota, well-known members of which occupy a prominent position in the Toolern Vale list. First are the migrants—Fairy Martin, Rufous Whistler, White-shouldered Triller, White-browed Wood-Swallow; then the residents—Winking Owl, Barn Owl, Red-backed Parrot, White-browed Babbler, Brown Weebill, Eastern Whiteface, Little Thornbill, Restless Flycatcher, Brown Tree-creeper and Brown-headed Honeyeater. The most recent addition is the Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, a pair of which were seen feeding amongst the flowering gums in August, 1936. This record corroborates the one in Belcher's *Birds of Geelong*, p. 343, where it is recorded that a small flock visited the eastern gardens of that city forty-eight years ago. Of the interior group also there are two species at present on the provisional list, Red-tipped Pardalote and Black-capped Sittella. Belcher also has a record of the Pardalote at the You Yangs. The Sittella has been seen close up and it has every feature of the Black-capped species. The Red-capped Robin has been seen in the district nearby on several occasions.

Five species of Cuckoos are on the list for the sanctuary, five species of Robins, five species of Thornbills, with a possible sixth, and fifteen species of Honeyeaters. This interesting tribe is extraordinarily well represented also in numbers of individuals, because of the extended flowering season which occurs with the native eucalypts of several kinds, particularly those blossoming in autumn and winter when food in other quarters may be scarce. Our note-books show that fifty species of birds are known to nest in Toolern Vale sanctuary. As time goes on doubtless other kinds of birds will be added to the list when the advantages of this unique tract of unspoiled bush are discovered by them.

Members are reminded that the 1936-37 subscription is now overdue. Members in arrears are asked to forward their dues immediately.



Ironbarks (*Eucalyptus Sideroxylon*) on the ridge of old quartzite rock.



The glade—box trees and yellow gums stand in a sward of native fodder grasses.

Photos. by A. G. Campbell.