

zonarius) left many half-eaten dates on the palms, and on these insects collected. The Yellow Honeyeaters would gather and devour the insects greedily, snapping them up with rapier-like thrusts of their bills. Curiously enough, the Singing Honeyeater did not appear to be aware of this harvest.

Considerable doubt has existed regarding the distribution of this species since Gould first described it as "the North Coast of Australia." Later records have enlarged its range to the Northern Territory. The lists prepared by the expeditions mentioned on page 101 do not show the species as being observed in the Centre. Evidently it is very local in its habits, as described by North (*Nests and Eggs of Birds Found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania*, vol. 2, p. 127), and, although occurring in one centre, is unknown in comparatively nearby districts. As more than fifteen years have elapsed since Whitlock made his trip in 1923 this species may have been established for some years in the MacDonnells or may have been forced into a nomadic southward movement on account of the drought conditions.

635. *Myzantha flavigula*: Yellow-throated Miner.

At the railway station at Alice Springs numbers of these birds were drinking from one of the taps. They were met at most of the parts visited.

647. *Anthus australis*: Australian Pipit.

Evenly distributed in small numbers. Fifteen to twenty birds were on the fringe of the swampy ground at Coward Springs.

653. *Taeniopygia castanotis*: Zebra Finch.

Large flocks seen on many occasions. At Maree hundreds of birds were in evidence and, at all watering places along the route, they were encountered. At some of the larger waterholes, huge flocks were to be found, but surprisingly, at the largest of them all, the Finke pool at Glen Helen, they were not recorded. During the two days of my stay at that spot a dust storm was blowing and that may have been the reason for their absence.

692. *Corvus cecilæ*: Crow.

These scavengers were distributed throughout the country covered. Two remarkable sights were witnessed at Anna Creek and Beresford. The arrival of the train disturbed them from a nearby water tank and they spiralled up into the air in many hundreds until finally a number were lost to sight, although still visible with field glasses.

Each individual bird appeared to be intent on gaining as high an altitude as possible, without any reference to its neighbours, and the result was chaotic in appearance.

700. *Cracticus nigrogularis*: Pied Butcher-bird.

Only met with in small parties in the MacDonnell Ranges.

Grey Petrel.—There appear to be no Australian-taken specimens of the Grey Petrel (*Procellaria cinerea*). Certainly there are no specimens in existence taken on the western side of the continent, i.e. of the form which breeds on Kerguelen Island. I therefore record that on August 8, 1941, I picked up a specimen on the beach at Bunbury, South-western Australia, which had apparently come ashore alive. Further details will be included in a paper which Mr. Lawson Whitlock and I have in hand concerning ocean derelicts which have occurred on south-west coasts during the last few years.—H. M. WHITTELL, Bridgetown, Western Australia, 28/8/41.