

## Bird Notes from Marong (Bendigo District) from 1904 to 1907.

BY H. W. FORD.

1904.

May.—*Pomatorhinus superciliosus* (Babbler) and *Myzantha garrula* (Miner) were nest-building. I got young Miners in June.

1905.

March 23 and 24.—*Chætura caudacuta* (Spine-tailed Swifts) going north.

April 5 and 12.—*Acanthochæra carunculata* (Wattled Honey-eater, Red Wattle or Gill-Bird) in flocks, going north.

April 12 and 13.—*Ptilotis leucotis* (White-eared Honey-eater) in flocks, going north; May 1, 3, and 5, going east; July 18, going south.

July 23.—First *Cuculus pallidus* (Pallid Cuckoo) heard; August 8, second heard.

August 11 and 15.—Plenty Cuckoos about—*Cuculus pallidus* (Pallid) and *Chalcococcyx plagosus* (Bronze).

August 3.—*Zonifer tricolor* (Black-breasted Plover) sitting on four eggs about a week.

August 20.—First *Rhipidura albiscapa* (White-shafted Fantail) seen; August 26, second seen; September 15, third seen.

August 20.—*Staganopleura guttata* (Spotted-sided Finch) seen in two flocks of nine and twelve respectively.

August 21.—*Zosterops cærulescens* (Zosterops or White-eye) seen.

August 26.—*Pardalotus assimilis* (Pardalotes or Diamond-Birds; Wit-oo, local name) seen.

August 15 and 28.—A pair of *Ephthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chat; local name, Tang) seen.

September 1 and 16.—Flocks of *Graucalus melanops* (Summer-Bird, Cuckoo-Shrike), a slate-coloured bird with black head, about as big as Pallid Cuckoo.

September 9.—*Petrochelidon ariel* (Fairy Martin), a flock seen.

September 16.—Flock of *Carphibis spinicollis* (Straw-necked Ibis) going south.

September 15.—*Burhinus grallarius* (Curlew, Stone-Plover's) nest, two eggs.

September 18.—Pair *Ægialitis ruficapilla* (Red-capped Dottrel) seen.

September 22.—*Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallow), flock seen.

October 5 and 6.—*Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallows), very high, going south, at 1 p.m. and 11 a.m.

October 22.—*Ephthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chat, Tang), a flock.

October 26.—Flock of *Graucalus melanops* (Summer-Bird, Cuckoo-Shrike), going south.

October 26.—*Rhipidura albiscapa* (White-shafted Fantail) seen.

October 27.—*Ephthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chats, Tangs) going south.



- October 10.—First *Cinclorhamphus cruralis* (Brown Song-Lark).  
 October 10.—First *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parrakeets),  
 going north.  
 October 14 and 16.—*Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallows) about, plenty ;  
 none after till 9/11/05.  
 October 16.—Second *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parra-  
 keets), going north.  
 November 2.—*Melopsittacus undulatus* (Warbling Grass-Parrakeet)  
 going north.  
 November 6.—*Cacatua gymnopsis* (Corellas, small), going south.  
 November 6.—*Melopsittacus undulatus* (Warbling Grass-Parrakeet),  
 going south-west.  
 November 4.—*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parrakeets)  
 going south-west.  
 November 16.—*Artamus personatus* (Wood-Swallows) going north.  
 December 1 and 2.—*Carphibis spinicollis* (Straw-necked Ibis), seven  
 flocks going north.  
 December 1.—*Acanthiza* — ? (Grey Tit's) nest, three eggs.  
 April 23.—Two *Ægialitis melanops* (Black-fronted Dottrel) at mine  
 dam at 7 a.m. ; not there in evening.

1906.

- February 22.—*Chætura caudacuta* (Spine-tailed Swift), flock going  
 north ; March 1, going north-east and hawking ; March  
 6 and 7, going north ; January 26, 1907, flock going north-  
 west and hawking ; February 1, 1907, scattered birds going  
 north-east at 7.30 p.m. ; February 6, 1907, two birds at  
 7 p.m., ten minutes between or interval, going north-east.  
*Note*.—I never saw Swifts going south, and up to end March,  
 1908, I had not seen any going north since 6/2/07.  
 April 21.—*Acanthochæra carunculata* (Red Wattle-Bird) going north ;  
 April 23, going west and north ; April 24 and 27, going  
 north-west.  
 April 21.—*Myzantha garrula* (Miner's) nest, two young, week old ;  
 July 10, building.  
 July 14.—*Acanthochæra carunculata* (Red Wattle or Gill-Bird).  
 July 16.—*Pardalotus assimilis* (Pardalote) seen.  
 July 18.—First *Chalcococcyx plagosus* (Bronze-Cuckoo) seen.  
 July 24.—First *Cuculus pallidus* (Pallid Cuckoo) seen.  
 July 24.—*Gymnorhina leuconota* (White-backed Magpie) breaking  
 sticks off dry sapling and taking to nest-building ; seen doing  
 it three times. Ground was very wet, and all sticks on it  
 sodden.  
 July 30.—Second *Cuculus pallidus* (Pallid Cuckoo) seen ; July 31,  
 third seen.  
 August 1.—Second *Chalcococcyx plagosus* (Bronze-Cuckoo) seen.  
 August 1.—*Myzantha garrula* (Miner) sitting, eggs.  
 August 2.—*Chalcococcyx plagosus* (Bronze) and *Cuculus pallidus*  
 (Pallid) Cuckoos about.  
 August 3.—*Zonifer tricolor* (Black-breasted Plover) sitting on four  
 eggs ; just started to sit.



- August 3.—Pair *Ephthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chats) ; August 7 and 8, plenty Chats about.
- August 9.—*Pomatorhinus superciliosus* (Babbler's) nest, one egg.
- August 9.—*Myzantha garrula* (Miner, Soldier-Birds') nests, eggs, building, and young ; three nests.
- August 10.—*Anthus australis* (Ground-Lark's, common brown) nest, three eggs.
- August 10.—*Myzantha garrula* (Miner's) nest, eggs.
- August 11.—*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* (Yellow-rumped Tit's) nest, small young ; August 12, building.
- August 12.—*Pomatorhinus superciliosus* (Babbler's) nest, six eggs.
- August 16.—*Petrochelidon ariel* (Fairy Martins) flock, and nesting in old shaft.
- August 20 and 21.—Pair *Ægialitis melanops* (Black-fronted Dottrel) at mine dam ; gone on 22nd.
- August 28.—*Rhipidura albiscapa* (White-shafted Fantail) seen.
- August 28.—Pair (first) of *Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallows).
- September 14.—*Rhipidura albiscapa* (White-shafted Fantail) seen.
- September 21.—*Psephotus hæmatonotus* (Red-backed Parrakeet) sitting.
- September 21.—*Platycercus eximius* (Rosella), large young ones in nest.
- September 26.—*Philemon corniculatus* (Leatherhead) going south.
- September 28.—*Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallows) about bush.
- October 2.—*Pomatorhinus temporalis* (small Babbler,\* Bush Chat-terer's) nest, new ; October 5, two eggs in nest.
- October 5.—*Staganopleura guttata* (Spotted-sided Finch) seen.
- October 6.—*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parrakeets) going north-west.
- October 11 and 13.—*Graucalus melanops* (Summer-Birds, Cuckoo-Shrikes) about.
- October 14.—*Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallows) nesting ; sitting.
- October 17.—*Rhipidura tricolor* (Willie Wagtail, Black-and-White Fantail's) nest ; young, about four days old.
- October 20.—*Halcyon sanctus* (Sacred Halcyon) seen.
- October 22.—Flock *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parrakeets) going north-west.
- October 22.—*Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallows) building.
- October 22.—*Notophox novæ-hollandiæ* (White-fronted Heron, Blue Crane) sitting.
- October 23.—Flocks *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parrakeets) going north-west ; October 24 and 25, few going north-west.
- October 25.—*Staganopleura guttata* (Spotted-sided Finch) building under White-fronted Heron's nest.
- October 25.—*Grallina picata* (Peewit or Magpie-Lark's) nest in same tree as Heron's and Finch's ; sitting.

\* The smaller Babbler is *P. superciliosus*. If the prior-mentioned Babbler's are intended for the larger species they should be *P. temporalis*.—EDS.



- November 25.—Pair of *Hieracidea orientalis* (Brown Hawk's) large nest in high tree; sitting.
- November 27.—Flocks *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parakeets) going south. To be seen about every day after 27/10/06.
- November 2.—*Hieracidea orientalis* (Brown Hawks) evidently have young in nest.
- November 5.—*Myzantha garrula* (Miner's) nest; young ones.
- November 12 and 18.—*Melopsittacus undulatus* (Warbling Grass-Parakeet) in flocks.
- November 21.—*Rhipidura tricolor* (Black-and-White Fantail), four eggs just laid in nest that had three young in on 17/10/06, and which left nest in due course.
- November 21.—*Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallow's) nest; two young in. This nest was building on 22/10/06.
- November 30.—*Ephthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chat's) nest; two eggs.
- December 1.—Young *Burhinus grallarius* (Curlew, Stone-Plover), a week old, seen.
- December 5.—First *Merops ornatus* (Bee-eater) seen.
- December 5.—*Cacatua roseicapilla* (Galah) feeding young in nest; nest seen four weeks ago.
- December 13.—Flock black and white Ibis going south.
- December 21.—*Cerchneis cenchroides* (Kestrel), feeding young in hollow tree.

1907.

- January 26.—*Chaetura caudacuta* (Spine-tailed Swifts) going north-west and hawking; February 1st, scattered, going north-east, at 7.30 p.m.; February 6, two, at 10-minute interval, going north-east, at 7 p.m.
- March 14.—*Ephthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chat) about in hundreds; never left all the year after.
- April 12.—*Acanthochæra carunculata* (Red Wattle-Birds) going north-east.
- April 12.—*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parakeets) about in flocks. They never left the district this year; a very dry or droughty year. Last year they all left on or about 28th February, after heavy rain. They were about in thousands before the rain, and were all gone two days after. *Ephthianura albifrons* (Chats) stopped in 1907 also.
- April 29.—*Petræca goodenovii* (Red-capped Robin) seen.
- April 30.—First *Petræca phænicea* (Flame-breasted Robin) seen; May 3, second seen.
- May 30.—Three male birds and plenty females; *Petræca leggii* (Scarlet-breasted Robins) also seen.
- May 12.—*Chalcococcyx plagosus* (Bronze-Cuckoo) in garden; flew away north.
- May 13, 14, and 15.—Large flocks *Acanthochæra carunculata* (Wattle-Bird) going south.



- May 14 and 15.—*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parrakeets) looking for spouts for nesting.
- May 13.—Male *Pachycephala gutturalis* (Thickhead) seen.
- June 14.—*Pomatorhinus superciliosus* (Babblers) mating.
- June 19.—*Petræca goodenovii* and *P. leggii* about ; plenty of latter ; cold, windy day.
- July 26.—First *Cuculus pallidus* (Pallid Cuckoo) seen ; August 30, second seen ; August 31, third seen ; September 1, plenty about.
- August 2.—*Corone australis* (Raven) sitting, also *Gymnorhina tibicen* and *leuconota* (Magpies).
- August 2.—*Staganopleura guttata* (Spotted-sided Finch) seen.
- September 2.—*Myzantha garrula* (Miner's) nest ; three eggs.
- September 7.—*Ptilotis leucotis* (White-eared Honey-eaters) about ; nests and young.
- September 8.—First *Cinclorhamphus cruralis* (Brown Song-Lark) ; September 9, several about.
- September 9.—*Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallows) about bush ; white wing marked.
- September 9.—*Acanthochæra carunculata* (Red Wattle-Bird) about bush.
- September 12.—*Cerchneis cenchroides* (Kestrel) mating. September 26, second pair sitting ; young left nest 5/12/07. The food seems to be mice and grasshoppers, and once I saw a Stubble Quail with Hawk ; in another case a Sparrow had been killed.
- September 13.—First *Rhipidura albiscapa* (White-shafted Fantail) seen ; September 17, second seen.
- September 16, 21, and 22.—Flocks *Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallow) flying high, going south.
- September 16.—Pair of *Glossopsittacus porphyrocephalus* (Purple-crowned Lorikeet) looking in spouts of trees for nest.
- September 23.—*Graucalus melanops* (Summer-Bird, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike) seen.
- September 26.—*Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallows) at 7.30 a.m. on trees and stumps, working south.
- September 26.—*Psephotus hæmatorrhous* (Blue Bonnet or Bull-oak Parrakeet, Crimson-bellied Parrakeet) sitting.
- September 30.—*Ephthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chat), young about ; nests with young and eggs ; October 9 and 10, Chats' nests, two and three eggs.
- October 12.—*Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallow) in flocks, going north.
- October 14.—*Chalcococcyx plagosus* (Bronze-Cuckoo) heard.
- October 17 and 18.—*Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallows) going north against strong north wind.
- October 1 to 18.—*Pardalotus assimilis* (Pardalote) nesting.
- October 21, 22, and 23.—*Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallow) in thousands going south-west, and about paddocks on ground. All gone after 23/10/07.



- October 26.—*Halcyon pyrrhopygius* (Red-backed Kingfisher) seen going south. This is first bird of kind I have seen.  
October 27, 29, and 30.—*Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallows) flying high, going west.

#### ADDENDA.

I never saw the Swifts going south, or in 1908 going north. I might have been out of track, as I was six miles further west in 1908.

*Psephotus hæmatorrhous* (Crimson-bellied Parrakeet, locally called the "Bull-oak" Parrot, and further north the "Blue Bonnet"), mentioned in former notes as sitting on 26th September, 1907, is rather a rare Parrot about here. I do not think I have seen more than 20 birds in four years. In October, 1904, saw a pair feeding large young in nest in tree spout.

*Hieracidea orientalis* (Brown Hawk).—These birds when sitting take turn about on eggs, at about 3-hour intervals. Sometimes the male bird brings food to the hen. She can see him a long way off, and screams till he is near, when she flies to him and takes food from his claws with her own. She then settles on a tree and eats food, and goes off on her spell, and he goes on nest. After young were out he used often to bring frilled lizards in his claws. She would do as above stated, but would tear up lizard and swallow, and then feed it to the young. Once he seemed to have more lizard than was wanted, which he took and left on an old nest 100 yards away from nest with young, and went off on his rounds, but when he came back he took the lizard he left on old nest. These Hawks do not appear to prey on birds—birds not being scared of them—and a Willie Wagtail (Black-and-White Fantail) used to chase and peck at Hawk for a distance of half a mile. Hawk never molested the Willie.

The *Grallina picata* (Magpie-Larks) take spells at sitting on eggs at 20 to 30-minute intervals. When a bird has had its spell it flies up and stands beside nest; other gets off and flies away, and former takes its place. This is done all day.

*Notophoyx novæ-hollandiæ* (White-fronted Heron).—These birds take spells at sitting at about 6-hour intervals. They used to change about 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. When we were near the nest the returning bird would light in nest tree or next one, and give a croak; other would get up and fly away, the relieving bird then going to nest. We left before the young came out, so could not observe the actions then. They had five young reared, I saw afterwards.

A Spotted-sided Finch built right under this Heron's nest while the Heron was sitting. There were three Spotted-sided Finches' nests, one Magpie-Lark's, and the Heron's in one tree—a yellow box.

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FOSTER-PARENTS OF CUCKOOS.—Mr. Lawson Whitlock (W.A.) has forwarded me *Chalcococcyx plagosus* with *Acanthiza pallida* (2) and *A. inornata* (2) respectively, and *Cuculus pallidus* with *Myzantha obscura* (1). I think these foster-parents have not been previously recorded.—H. L. WHITE. Scone, N.S.W.



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