

This incident has shown that the Dusky Wood-Swallow clusters for reasons other than night-time roosting and, as the late Professor A. J. Marshall states "Precise observations are required".

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### **Birds of the Strathbogie Ranges**

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#### GENERAL

The account of the birds of the Strathbogie Ranges is the result of observations that I have made in the area, over the past ten years. In addition to the many visits made to these ranges during the course of my work, I resided for several years at Mooropna and also at Caniambo. There were many opportunities for me to study the birds, and I was fortunate in being able to record their presence and habits over such a long time, and at all seasons of the year.

Ornithological literature directly relating to this area, that I have been able to trace, is very meagre. The main paper was written by A. W. R. Vroland in 1904, "List of Birds Found at Strathbogie, Victoria", *Emu*, 4 : 227-228.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Strathbogie Ranges are situated in the north-eastern sector of Victoria, and lie between the Goulburn and Broken Rivers. In area it is slightly less than 300 square miles, and the elevation generally is between 2,000 and 3,000 feet. The country is mostly rugged, mountainous and, in the early days of settlement, timbered. The two highest points are Mount Separation and Mount Wombat.

The dominant rock type is a coarse-grained biotite granite, and large tors have been formed. Generally, the soils of the dissected plateau are inferior for either agricultural or pastoral purposes, supporting only small to medium size timber, except in pockets along the streams.

Today it is essentially a farming community, with sheep, dairy-ing, beef cattle, apples, pigs and poultry being the main interests. Some timber is still being removed for milling. Vast tracts of land in the Lima area are being cleared and planted with *Pinus radiata*.

### RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE

The monthly and annual averages, in points, of rainfall, and the average number of rain-days per month, are as follows.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Pts.	180	175	267	335	357	458	488	453	364	377	283	192	3929
Days	4	4	5	8	11	11	14	14	11	11	9	6	108

The temperature varies from 25°f. to 108°f. Snow may fall during the winter months, but it lasts for a few days only. Frosts begin in the early part of May and occur frequently until the first weeks of October.

The average annual rainfall of 39.29 inches, contrasts with that of the open plain country to the immediate north of the Strath-bogies, where the average is only slightly above 20 inches.

### LIST OF SPECIES

Australian Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*. Four birds at Polly's Dam, about five miles south of Strathbogie, in September 1963, and they stayed for at least two weeks.

Black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Odd small flocks or single birds recorded at Polly's Dam, but very large flocks often pass over, presumably moving from Eildon Reservoir to the irrigation areas to the north.

Little Black Cormorant, *P. sulcirostris*. Single birds at Polly's Dam and on other dams, mainly in late summer and autumn.

Pied Cormorant, *P. varius*. One record of three birds at Polly's during December 1963.

Little Pied Cormorant, *P. melanoleucos*. Always present at Polly's Dam and on local waters.

Little Grebe, *Podiceps novaehollandiae*. Rare, a few small flocks, varying from three to eight birds, observed at Polly's Dam between June and October.

Hoary-headed Grebe, *P. poliocephalus*. During March 1963, a flock of approximately 30 birds arrived and stayed for most of the month on Polly's Dam. On November 23, 1968, two birds were present on the lower pool. These are my only records.

White-necked Heron, *Ardea pacifica*. Common resident in all suitable habitat, with increase in number during winter months. Resorts to tall timber for nesting during September to November.

White-faced Heron, *A. novaehollandiae*. A common resident near water or in wet paddocks, the number being relatively steady

throughout the year. Nests October to November in quiet areas, close to water.

White Egret, *Egretta alba*. Common September to April at Polly's and smaller dams, also in marshy paddocks. Odd birds sighted May to August. During 1963/64 this species was particularly common in the Strathbogies, and all areas to the north.

Nankeen Night Heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Pairs or family groups are in residence in willows near streams and dams, or in dense overhanging eucalypts. They favour tall grass in swampy paddocks or reeds for their nightly feeding.

Brown Bittern, *Botaurus poiciloptilus*. Odd birds are about throughout the year in willows or in dense eucalypts; never far from swampy areas.

White Ibis, *Threskiornis molucca*. Present all year round in small flocks in all areas including timber. Solitary birds are frequently sighted. These birds often appear bedraggled, and have discoloured plumage, suggesting that they are older birds, or ones that have just arrived from distant places and are yet to join up with a local flock.

Straw-necked Ibis, *T. spinicollis*. Outnumber the previous species by approximately ten to one, being especially common after heavy rain. The White Ibis has fairly constant numbers in the area, whereas the Straw-necked species increases during mid-spring, and a decrease is noted about May.

Royal Spoonbill, *Platalea regia*. Odd pairs throughout the year, with a slight increase each autumn.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill, *P. flavipes*. Slightly more common than the previous species, and sometimes in the company of the White Egret.

Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus*. Up to seven were noted on Polly's Dam, and odd pairs on other dams throughout the year. Large flocks are often observed flying over, probably on a similar flight to the Black Cormorants.

Mountain Duck, *Tadorna tadornoides*. Many small flocks or pairs are scattered throughout the area from April to December. Breeding begins in June and extends to October. Odd pairs only are sighted from January to March.

Black Duck, *Anas superciliosa*. Common on all water, mostly in pairs or small flocks throughout the year, and often in wet pasture after rain. Nests from August to December.

Grey Teal, *A. gibberifrons*. Similar in habit to the Chestnut Teal, but slightly more common and also frequents dams. Unlike the Chestnut species it is found each month, and reaches a peak in number during early autumn, which remains constant throughout the winter.

Chestnut Teal, *A. castanea*. Odd birds or pairs mostly disturbed from narrow creeks with heavy overhanging growth, generally in company with Grey Teal. No records between March and October.



White-necked Heron at nest, adult and young

Photo by D. G. W. Hollands

Plate 19

Blue-winged Shoveler, *A. rhynchos*. Odd pairs during summer and autumn, generally in company with Black Duck.

Pink-eared Duck, *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*. Small parties during the winter and spring of 1959, and even smaller numbers during 1964, mostly at Polly's Dam, and along the Honeysuckle Creek.

White-eyed Duck, *Aythya australis*. A few birds noted each spring and summer at Polly's Dam.

Wood-Duck, *Chenonetta jubata*. Very common in pairs or small flocks. Favours dams in open situations. Young birds have been noted in each month, from early in September until May. Many young are still unable to fly when the "Duck-season" opens, and they fall easy prey to the guns of shooters. The birds tend to congregate into bigger flocks during autumn, when parties of 50 to 100 birds may be seen on remote dams.

Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus notatus*. Odd birds throughout the year, but a large influx occurs corresponding with the appearance of grasshoppers and crickets, generally mid-December and lasting until mid-April. During the autumn months field-mice, which are common in stubble and paddocks cut for hay, are also taken. Nesting extends for the period covered by the influx.

Whistling Eagle, *Haliastur sphenurus*. A common resident, favouring open timber and paddocks near water. Feeds on dead

roadside rabbits and magpies, and also takes live Coot from open water. Breeds October to January.

Australian Goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus*. Plentiful in all areas during summer and autumn, but very rare from May to late November. Frequents the willows and densely foliated trees along streams in pursuit of small game for food.

Collared Sparrowhawk, *A. cirrocephalus*. Recorded March, October and December, generally on the lower slopes at the northern end of the ranges, and along the Broken River in the Swanpool area.

Australian Little Eagle, *Hieraaetus morphnoides*. Noted frequently throughout the area, with an influx during the summer months.

Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*. A common resident, with nesting taking place from July to November each year.

Spotted Harrier, *Circus assimilis*. One bird, that appeared to be this species, was seen during December 1964. Although it is resident on the plains towards Dookie, in small numbers, it is more often seen there in late autumn or winter.

Swamp-Harrier, *C. approximans*. Common, except during winter months when few birds are seen. Nesting occurs from October to December. Frequently seen over district oat-crops and pasture ready for hay-cutting.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*. Scattered records for most months with a slight increase during the summer period. This species hunts at tree-top level for smaller birds, and frequents swampy paddocks in search of Starlings. One bird was seen to miss a Sacred Kingfisher, *Halcyon sanctus*, perched on a low bare branch, and pursued it to a hollow branch where it managed to escape. On several occasions I have noted birds flying at great speed along the winding creeks only a few feet from the water, undoubtedly ready for any bird frightened into leaving the shelter of the bank-side scrub.

Little Falcon, *F. longipennis*. A few records during the summer months, including a pair attacking Musk Lorikeets, *Glossopsitta concinna*, unsuccessfully, and a finely plumaged bird feeding on a Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis*.

Nankeen Kestrel, *F. cenchroides*. Common September to April, but rare for the remaining months of the year. Feeds on grasshoppers, crickets, field-mice and large moths. Nests November to March.

Brown Hawk, *F. berigora*. Common resident species with a large influx each summer and autumn. Nests October to February, often using old magpie and raven nests.

Stubble Quail, *Coturnix pectoralis*. Found in rough pasture and near stream-banks, and especially abundant in ripening oat-crops. Numbers vary according to rain-fall, and good late-spring rains are followed by an increase of these birds.

Brown Quail, *Synoicus ypsilophorus*. Rare. A few records from among the tussocks, near the Honeysuckle Creek, during the mid-summer months.

Painted Quail, *Turnix varia*. Frequents lightly timbered stringy-bark areas close to water, particularly in the Boho South area. No nests have been found, but young birds, not long out of the nest, have been sighted.

Marsh-Crake, *Porzana pusilla*. Odd birds may be flushed around Polly's Dam, during the spring and summer months.

Dusky Moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa*. Resident at Polly's in very small numbers. Nests in the early spring, and young birds are present from October onwards.

Swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio*. Small resident population at all suitable habitats. After heavy rain the birds leave the shelter of reed-beds and gather in open pasture. Young are noted from September to December, and in 1963-64 breeding occurred during the autumn. There is a slight decrease in number in the winter.

Coot, *Fulica atra*. Small resident population at all suitable habitats, breeding from October until February.

Spur-winged Plover, *Vanellus novaehollandiae*. A very common resident in open pasture. Breeds May to November, and again from February until March, if rain falls. Some flocking occurs in summer months, when parties of 20 or more birds will gather together.

Banded Plover, *V. tricolor*. Common in wet years, but almost absent in dry conditions. Nesting from May to September in open pasturelands under normal conditions, but the breeding season will extend to early December if good rains continue to fall.

Black-fronted Dotterel, *Charadrius melanops*. Found in open pasture and lightly timbered areas, near dams, during the summer months; in pairs or in small flocks of up to seven birds.

Japanese Snipe, *Gallinago hardwickii*. A summer migrant most frequently seen when spot-lighting at night-time for rabbits.

Southern Stone-Curlew, *Burhinus magnirostris*. Odd pairs will take up residence in clumps of willows and remain for many months.

Common Bronzewing, *Phaps chalcoptera*. Common resident in timbered areas. Flocking occurs during autumn and a sharp decrease occurs in the colder months. Oat-stubbles are favoured feeding areas, and they are often seen on the roadways. Their habit of rising at the last moment, and then perching on a near-by tree, is their downfall, as many birds are shot throughout the area.

Musk Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta concinna*. Nomadic, appearing in relatively large numbers, from September to March, when the eucalypts flower.

Purple-crowned Lorikeet, *G. porphyrocephala*. A common nomad, observed from September to March.

Little Lorikeet, *G. pusilla*. Slightly more common than the previous two species, and known to nest near Benalla.

Swift Parrot, *Lathamus discolor*. A few birds each September and October, with the lorikeets.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus funereus*. Some small parties up to 15 birds have been noted, mainly in autumn months, frequenting pine trees.

Gang-Gang Cockatoo, *Callocephalon fimbriatum*. Common from October to March, then frequents the surrounding flatter country for the remaining months of the year.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua galerita*. Plentiful throughout the year, with nesting taking place from October to February.

Galah, *C. roseicapilla*. Very common in small flocks, breeding October to December.

Cockatiel, *Nymphicus hollandicus*. A few small flocks in late summer in oat-stubbles, around Boho South area.

King Parrot, *Aprosmictus scapularis*. Small numbers throughout the ranges but no breeding records.

Crimson Rosella, *Platycercus elegans*. Very common, spreading to the Red Gum country to the north in winter. Breeds November to January.

Eastern Rosella, *P. eximius*. Very common throughout the area. Breeds September to January.

Red-rumped Parrot, *Psephotus haematonotus*. Extremely common in all the open country around the ranges, but only frequents the high country during summer and autumn, and then only in small numbers.

Pallid Cuckoo, *Cuculus pallidus*. Birds moving through the area each August and September and returning again in March and April, but very rare during the summer months.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*. A few records during September and October, and again in January of single birds.

Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx basalis*. Common from October to December and a few appear again in March and April.

Golden Bronze-Cuckoo, *C. plagosus*. Rare, odd birds seen each year from October to March.

Barking Owl, *Ninox connivens*. Rare, odd birds observed along the Red Gum margins of streams and roadsides.

Boobook Owl, *N. novaehollandiae*. Common throughout the entire area.

Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*. Slightly less common than the Boobook Owl, and more inclined to seasonal movements, numbers falling away during the colder months.

Tawny Frogmouth, *Podargus strigoides*. Mainly sighted at night when driving along the bush roads, or found roosting in thick scrub during the daytime.

Spine-tailed Swift, *Hirundapus caudacutus*. Although I have spent many thunderous afternoons and evenings in the area I have never recorded swifts overhead.

Azure Kingfisher, *Alcyon azurea*. Pairs may be found along streams from October to March, but rather rare.

Laughing Kookaburra, *Dacelo gigas*. Extremely common throughout the area.



Striated Thornbill at nest in gum sapling

Plates 20 and 21

Speckled Warbler is seen mostly in grassy paddocks

Photos by Roy P. Cooper



Sacred Kingfisher, *Halcyon sancta*. Pairs from September to May, nesting November to February. Quite common, and it would seem that the same pairs use the same nesting sites each year. These territories are defended strenuously.

Rainbow Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus*. Common in the lightly timbered areas from October to March, breeding from November to early February. If the summer and autumn are particularly hot and dry the departure may be delayed until late April.

Superb Lyrebird, *Menura novaehollandiae*. One bird crossed the Strathbogie to Merton road early one September morning in 1963.

Singing Bushlark, *Mirafra javanica*. A common resident but generally confined to dry grasslands and stubbles. In autumn flocking occurs immediately good rains fall, and the lower slopes become alive with Bushlarks.

Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*. Fairly common in summer and autumn, in grasslands and stubbles, but apparently rare from April to November.

Welcome Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*. A common resident of the ranges, a few birds wintering in the area.

Tree-Martin, *Petrochelidon nigricans*. Common from October to March, some birds remaining in April and May if the season is mild. Frequents the timbered areas near streams, particularly the upper reaches of the Sevens Creek, and also the reed-beds of Polly's.

Fairy Martin, *P. ariel*. A common summer migrant nesting under bridges and culverts.

Australian Pipit, *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. A common resident in all open grassland, nesting from September to December.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, *Coracina novaehollandiae*. This species is common, arriving late in August and departing early in April. There is a strong movement during September of birds passing through the area, in flocks of 20 to 50, and this movement is repeated again in March. Some birds winter on the lower slopes in the Red Gums.

Little Cuckoo-Shrike, *C. robusta*. Odd birds noted during autumn months, mainly on the lower slopes.

White-winged Triller, *Lalage sueurii*. Rare summer migrant to timber along the streams.

Blackbird, *Turdus merula*. Very common along the streams and around farm houses. Nests in blackberries, introduced shrubs, creepers, and one nest in a hollow tree stump. Breeds September to November, and again February to April if conditions are mild.

Grey-crowned Babbler, *Pomatostomus temporalis*. A few small parties mainly in the stringybark forests, in Boho South area, and between Strathbogie and Merton.

White-browed Babbler, *P. superciliosus*. Parties from the dry plains northward sometimes stray to the northern slopes of the ranges, generally in autumn.

Golden-headed Fantail-Warbler, *Cisticola exilis*. Common during the summer months in all suitable habitat, but numbers decline during winter.

Little Grassbird, *Megalurus gramineus*. A few birds in the reeds around Polly's Dam, and in rough grasslands near the Honeysuckle Creek. This species occurs in plentiful numbers each year at Gowangardie Weir, on the Broken River, and in reed-beds around Violet Town.

Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. Extremely common in reed-beds throughout the area, from August to April. In 1968 some birds were present during the winter months, although not in any great number.

Rufous Songlark, *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*. Summer migrant appearing in great numbers if the season is moderate, but almost absent if drought conditions prevail. Favours rough pasture close to streams and stubbles.

Superb Blue Wren, *Malurus cyaneus*. Very common throughout the area, nesting September to January. Particularly favours blackberries, bracken and scrub along the streams.

White-throated Warbler, *Gerygone olivacea*. A very rare summer visitor to the ranges.

Striated Thornbill, *Acanthiza lineata*. A common resident over the entire area, but even more common in the Red Gum country on the lower slopes and surrounding plains.

Little Thornbill, *A. nana*. Very common, especially in wattle and tea-tree scrub along the streams. No nests have been located, but adults feeding young have been noted in December.

Brown Thornbill, *A. pusilla*. One of the most plentiful birds of the area. Nests October to January. There appears to be a movement from the ranges to the Red Gum plains in autumn and winter, but it still remains very common in the ranges during winter.

Buff-rumped Thornbill, *A. reguloides*. This species is fairly common along the Broken River, and appears to stray into the ranges during summer and autumn.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill, *A. chrysorrhoa*. Nearly as common as the Brown Thornbill in the ranges, and even more so on the plains. Nests June to December, and again in March and April, if conditions are mild.

White-browed Scrub-Wren, *Sericornis frontalis*. Very common, especially along the streams. Nests September to December.

Speckled Warbler, *Chthonicola sagittata*. Odd birds only throughout the year, mostly in grassy paddocks or stubbles.

White-fronted Chat, *Epthianura albifrons*. Odd small flocks appear throughout the year, but not as common as on the plains adjacent to the Broken River, below Benalla.

Jacky Winter, *Microeca leucophaea*. Common in all timber areas, nesting October to December.

Scarlet Robin, *Petroica multicolor*. Common in all timbered areas in pairs or small family groups. Entirely absent during winter when they move to the surrounding plains.

Flame Robin, *P. phoenicea*. Common in summer and in winter when it migrates to the open plains. However, a few birds winter in the open valleys on the northern and eastern sides of the ranges. Nests from November to January.

Pink Robin, *P. rodinogaster*. Odd male birds noted from December to March in the more heavily timbered areas.

Hooded Robin, *P. cucullata*. Pairs are common from September to March, but no nests have been located.

Southern Yellow Robin, *Eopsaltria australis*. A very common resident, nesting from October to January.

Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa*. A common nesting resident in all areas.

Rufous Fantail, *R. rufifrons*. Common migrant, nesting October to January.

Willie Wagtail, *R. leucophrys*. Common in open country, nests September to December.

Leaden Flycatcher, *Myiagra rubecula*. Each year a few birds are noted in thick timber areas during November and December.

Satin Flycatcher, *M. cyanoleuca*. Rare summer visitor to heavy timber. Nests December to February.

Restless Flycatcher, *Seisura inquieta*. Common resident, nesting from September to November. There is a marked decrease of numbers during the winter months.

Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala pectoralis*. Very common from September to April, and then migrates to the Red Gum country on the surrounding plains. Nests November to January.

Rufous Whistler, *P. rufiventris*. Slightly less common than the previous species but similar in habits.

Olive Whistler, *P. olivacea*. A pair noted in January 1968, in a heavily timbered region on Sevens Creek.

Grey Shrike-Thrush, *Colluricincla harmonica*. Very common resident, nesting September to November.

Shrike-Tit, *Falcunculus frontatus*. Very common September to January, and good numbers present for the remainder of the year. Nests October to December.

Orange-winged Sittella, *Neositta chrysoptera*. Rare in small parties or pairs in all timbered areas. It appears to favour the Red Gum areas in winter, being nearly absent from the ranges during the colder months.

Brown Treecreeper, *Climacteris picumnus*. A very common resident in all areas of timber, with a tendency to move to the Red Gum plains in winter.

Mistletoe-bird, *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*. Fairly common, though mainly in spring and autumn. Common in Red Gum areas in summer.

Spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus punctatus*. Fairly common throughout the area from September to April, most birds wintering on the plains to the north. Nests from October to December.

Eastern Striated Pardalote, *P. ornatus*. Rare in the ranges mainly in autumn, but common in the Red Gum areas throughout the year.

Striated Pardalote, *P. substriatus*. Common throughout the area. There is a definite flocking in the autumn and winter, when some movement to the lower country occurs.

Grey-breasted Silveryeye, *Zosterops lateralis*. Mainly in small flocks up to ten birds, between April and October, and in pairs for the remainder of the year. Nests in orchards at Boho South in November, and small numbers noted there in summer and autumn. Several flocks have been observed moving along the Broken River during winter months, one being estimated to total 200 birds.

Fuscous Honeyeater, *Meliphaga fusca*. Common throughout the ranges, especially when eucalypts are in flower.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater, *M. chrysops*. Common from August to March, when the scattered flocks gather and begin a north-easterly migration.

White-plumed Honeyeater, *M. penicillata*. Common in all areas, especially in the Red Gum forests along the Broken River. There are indications of a movement from the ranges to the Red Gum in winter. Nests from September to December.

White-eared Honeyeater, *M. leucotis*. A common resident, nesting in October.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, *M. melanops*. Common throughout the ranges. I have never found a nest, although birds have been noted collecting spider's web. Frequently noted by its habit of splashing into still pools along the creeks.

Brown-headed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus brevirostris*. Mainly occurs in small flocks from March to October, with a definite preference for the Red Gums.

White-naped Honeyeater, *M. lunatus*. Common nomad in all timbered areas, appearing wherever eucalypts are blossoming.

Eastern Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*. Rare in the ranges, occasionally visiting gardens when fuchsias are in bloom.

Noisy Miner, *Manorina melanocephala*. Very common in the Red Gum areas and around the lower slopes of the ranges.

Red Wattle-bird, *Anthochaera carunculata*. Very common in all areas, especially when eucalypts blossom. Flocks of several hundred birds have been noted, but generally it is in pairs or small flocks up to 20 birds.

Diamond Firetail, *Emblema guttata*. Common around the lower slopes, and sometimes recorded in small flocks in the higher areas.

Red-browed Finch, *Aegintha temporalis*. Common in all lightly timbered areas and especially along the streams. In winter the species moves to the plains. Generally found in parties of five to 12 birds, but several flocks of at least 50 birds have been noted in March.

Zebra Finch, *Poephila guttata*. A common resident in all areas. Nests from August to March.

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*. Common around all the farms in the district, and frequently found nesting in scrub away from habitation. Nests from August to January, and again from mid-March to May.

Tree Sparrow, *P. montanus*. Fairly common in Euroa, Violet Town and Benalla, but as yet not recorded at Strathbogie.

Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*. Common throughout the ranges with some movement to the plains in winter. Nests from November to January.

Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*. Extremely common in all open areas; nesting from August to November, and from March to May.

Olive-backed Oriole, *Oriolus sagittatus*. A rather rare summer visitor to the timbered areas, being mainly restricted to stringybark in the ranges and Red Gum on the lower slopes. It did not appear in 1967-68.

Magpie-Lark, *Grallina cyanoleuca*. A common resident, nesting August to November, and again in March if good early rains fall.

White-winged Chough, *Corcorax melanorhamphus*. A common resident with a preference for stringybark areas.

White-breasted Wood-Swallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus*. Rare visitor to the ranges in summer, but a slight increase in number along the Broken River.

Masked Wood-Swallow, *A. personatus*. Rare summer visitor to the stringybark areas, but may be absent in some years.

White-browed Wood-Swallow, *A. superciliosus*. Common summer visitor from mid-October to early March. Nests in the stringybark areas during November and December.

Dusky Wood-Swallow, *A. cyanopterus*. Fairly common from October to March; a few birds winter along the Broken River.

Pied Currawong, *Strepera graculina*. Common in the Red Gum areas from May to August and, to a lesser degree, in the ranges. Rarely sighted for the remaining months of the year, and then only in the north-eastern section of the ranges in very small flocks.

Grey Currawong, *S. versicolor*. Rare visitor to the ranges in late summer and autumn, probably passing through on nomadic wanderings.

Grey Butcher-bird, *Cracticus torquatus*. Fairly common in the ranges, but rather rare in the Red Gum areas. At least five pairs frequent the area close to Strathbogie town.

Black-backed Magpie, *Gymnorhina tibicen*. A very common resident, nesting from September to November.

White-backed Magpie, *G. hypoleuca*. A few of this species frequent the area and nest in the ranges. There is a definite influx during winter, especially to the lower slopes and plains.

Australian Raven, *Corvus coronoides*. Common throughout the area. Nests from August to December.