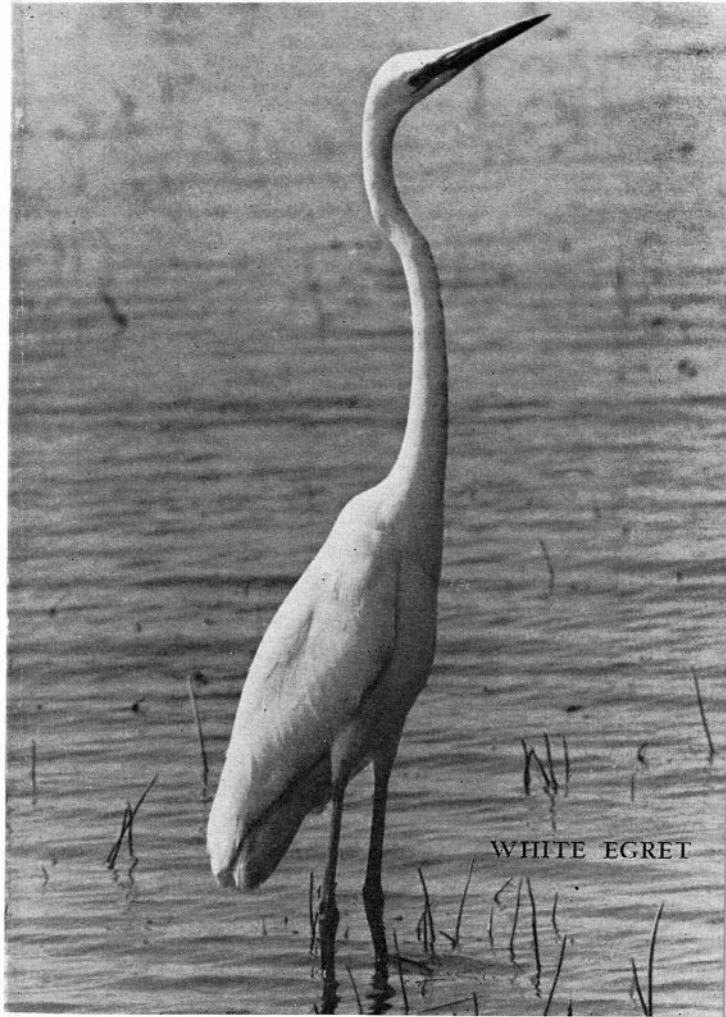


BIRDS
of the
HATTAH LAKES
NATIONAL PARK



WHITE EGRET

NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

The Birds of Hattah Lakes National Park

Recorded by *N. H. E. McDonald*

INTRODUCTION

This Bird List for Hattah Lakes National Park, compiled by N. H. E. McDonald, National Park Ranger, should prove of great value to those interested in this aspect of our native fauna.

The native species are listed in the order and with the name used by W. Roy Wheeler in "A Hand List of the Birds of Victoria", published by the Victorian Ornithological Research Group in 1967.

Wheeler listed 437 species as having been recorded in Victoria, and 200 have been listed for the Hattah Lakes National Park. The total would no doubt be even more impressive if we were to consider also the adjoining Kulkyne State Forest and its miles of frontage to the Murray River.

No fewer than 26 birds listed by Wheeler as "Rare" for Victoria and 38 described as "Rather Rare" appear on the Hattah List.

The 26 rare species are listed hereunder for ease of reference :

Mallee-fowl, Painted Snipe, Glossy Ibis, Little Bittern, Collared Sparrow hawk, Square-tailed Kite, Black-breasted Buzzard, Grey Falcon, Little Corella, Spotted Nightjar, Black-eared Cuckoo, Red-throated Whistler, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Chestnut-crowned Babbler, Crimson Chat, Orange Chat, Rufous Field-wren, Striated Grass-wren, Mallee Emu-wren, Black-faced Wood-swallow, Black Honeyeater, Dusky Miner, Apostle-bird, Spotted Bower-bird, Pied Butcher-Bird.

It is interesting to compare the Hattah records with H. E. Tarr's list for Wyperfeld National Park—approximately 50 miles in a direct line to the south-south-west. From the Hattah List, 5 of the "rare" species and 5 of the "rather rare" ones are not listed for Wyperfeld. In some cases, the records are only of single birds, but in many cases the birds are relatively plentiful in both areas. The records illustrate the value of both parks in habitat conservation for our native birds.

The Little Desert National Park, 60 miles south-south-west of Wyperfeld, is an additional link in the conservation of habitat for this purpose.

L. H. Smith,
Director of National Parks.

July, 1972.

1. **EMU** *Dromaius novae-hollandiae* Resident. Numerous at times.
2. **LOWAN/MALLEE-FOWL** *Leipoa ocellata* Resident. Sparse distribution.
3. **STUBBLE-QUAIL** *Coturnix pectoralis* Migrant. Scarce.
4. **LITTLE QUAIL** *Turnix velox* Migrant. Rare.
5. **RED-CROWNED PIGEON** *Ptilinopus regina* One sub-adult male found dead, winter 1966. Third Victorian record.
6. **PEACEFUL DOVE** *Geopelia placida* Mainly resident. Uncommon.
7. **DIAMOND DOVE** *G. cuneata* Rare.
8. **COMMON BRONZEWING** *Phaps chalcoptera* Resident. Fairly frequent in scrub.
9. **CRESTED PIGEON** *Ocyphaps lophotes* Resident. Plentiful, often in flocks.
10. **BANDED LANDRAIL** *Hypotaenidia philipensis* Occasional.
11. **BLACK-TAILED NATIVE HEN** *Tribonyx ventralis* Nomadic.
12. **DUSKY MOORHEN** *Gallinula tenebrosa* One immature bird, Lake Hattah, 12 May, 1971. Other records since.
13. **COOT** *Fulica atra* Plentiful on water.
14. **EASTERN SWAMPHEN** *Porphyrio melanotus* At times. Prefers reed-beds.
15. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus* Spring and summer resident.
16. **LITTLE GREBE** *P. ruficollis* Often seasonal.
17. **HOARY-HEADED GREBE** *P. poliocephalus* Often on water.
18. **BLACK CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Common when water is present.
19. **LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT** *P. sulcirostris* Abundant on water.
20. **PIED CORMORANT** *P. varius* Rare. Dependent on water.
21. **LITTLE PIED CORMORANT** *P. melanoleucus* Most abundant of the cormorants.
22. **AUSTRALIAN DARTER** *Anhinga novae-hollandiae* Few. Lakes and streams.
23. **AUSTRALIAN PELICAN** *Pelecanus conspicillatus* Regular visitor to lakes.
24. **MARSH TERN/WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybrida* Follows waters in spring.
25. **GULL-BILLED TERN** *Gelochelidon nilotica* Rare. Irregular, follows waters during Spring.

26. **SILVER GULL** *Larus novae-hollandiae* Irregular.
27. **RED-KNEED DOTTEREL** *Erythronyx cinctus* Occasionally about lake shores.
28. **AUSTRALIAN SPUR-WINGED PLOVER** *Lobibyx novae-hollandiae* Resident. Fairly numerous about water margins.
29. **BANDED PLOVER** *Zonifer tricolor* Infrequent. Prefers open plains.
30. **RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL** *Charadrius alexandrinus* Occasional. Prefers brackish waters.
31. **BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL** *Charadrius melanops* Pairs. Constant about lake margins.
32. **WHITE-HEADED STILT** *Himantopus leucocephalus* Small parties. Lake shores. Irregular.
33. **RED-NECKED AVOCET** *Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae* Irregular. Prefers salt and brackish waters.
34. **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia* Singly. Lake margins. Occasional.
35. **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** *Erolia acuminata* Spring and Summer resident. Flocks about stream and lake margins.
36. **RED-NECKED/LITTLE STINT** *E. ruficollis* Rare. Lake margins.
37. **AUSTRALIAN SNIPE** *Gallinago hardwickii* Spring and summer resident. Marshy areas. Rare.
38. **PAINTED SNIPE** *Rostratula benghalensis* Rare. Nomadic. Marshes.
39. **SOUTHERN STONE-CURLEW** *Burhinus magnirostris* Resident. Singly. Sparse distribution.
40. **GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus* Lake shores. Occasional.
41. **AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS** *Threskiornis molucca* Fairly constant about lakes and swamps.
42. **STRAW-NECKED IBIS** *T. spinicollis* Flocks. Usually near water.
43. **ROYAL SPOONBILL** *Platalea regia* Singly or pairs. Lake and stream margins.
44. **YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL** *P. flavipes* Small parties. Fairly frequent about water.
45. **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta* Singly. Rare shore wader.
46. **WHITE EGRET** *E. alba* Singly or in pairs. Fairly frequent about shallow water.

47. **WHITE-FACED HERON** *Ardea novae-hollandiae* Singly. Common about water.
48. **WHITE-NECKED/PACIFIC HERON** *A. pacifica* Solitary. Dependent on water.
49. **NANKEEN NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax caledonicus* Nocturnal wader. Often roosts in communities.
50. **LITTLE BITTERN** *Ixobrychus minutus* Rare. Skulks amongst reeds and heavy water-side growth.
51. **MANED GOOSE/WOOD-DUCK** *Chenonetta jubata* Pairs or flocks. Partial to woodland waters. Fairly common at times.
52. **BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus* Very common on waters.
53. **CHESTNUT-BREASTED SHELDUCK/MOUNTAIN DUCK** *Casarca tadornoides* Pairs. Fairly common about water.
54. **GREY/BLACK DUCK** *Anas superciliosa* Common on water.
55. **CHESTNUT TEAL** *A. castanea* Occasional. Pairs and flocks. Salt or fresh water.
56. **GREY TEAL** *A. gibberifrons* Pairs or flocks. Very common on water.
57. **BLUE-WINGED SHOVELER** *A. rhynchosotis* Pairs. Uncommon. Dependent upon water.
58. **PINK-EARED DUCK** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*. Pairs or flocks. Dependent on water. Irregular. Not common.
59. **HARDHEAD/AUSTRALIAN WHITE-EYED DUCK** *Aythya australis* Pairs or flocks. Fairly common on deep water.
60. **BLUE-BILLED DUCK** *Oxyura australis* Rare. Deep waters and vegetated islands.
61. **MUSK DUCK** *Biziura lobata* Pairs on deep waters. Sometimes fairly numerous.
62. **SWAMP HARRIER** *Circus approximans* Singly and pairs. Not common.
63. **AUSTRALIAN GOSHAWK** *Accipiter fasciatus* Singly or pairs. Uncommon.
64. **COLLARED SPARROWHAWK** *A. cirrocephalus* Singly or pairs. Not plentiful.
65. **WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE** *Aquila audax* Resident. Pairs. Widely distributed.
66. **AUSTRALIAN LITTLE EAGLE** *Hieraaetus morphnoides* Resident. Pairs.
67. **WHISTLING EAGLE/KITE** (*Haliastur sphenurus*) Resident. Pairs.
68. **WHITE-BREASTED SEA-EAGLE** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Pairs. Sparse distribution.
69. **BLACK/FORK-TAILED KITE** *Milvus migrans* Occasional.
70. **SQUARE-TAILED KITE** *Lophoictinia isura* Very rare. Juvenile recorded at Lake Hattah, 16.12.1971.
71. **BLACK-BREASTED BUZZARD** *Hamirostra melanosterna* Long-standing records by L. G. Chandler, Red Cliffs. Not seen in recent years.
72. **AUSTRALIAN BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** *Elanus notatus* Isolated pairs.
73. **LITTLE FALCON** *Falco longipennis* Rare.
74. **PEREGRINE FALCON** *F. peregrinus* Rare.
75. **GREY FALCON** *F. hypoleucus* Rarest of the local birds of prey.
76. **BROWN FALCON/HAWK** *F. berigora* Resident. Pairs. Open areas mainly.
77. **NANKEEN KESTREL** *F. cenchroides* Resident. Pairs.
78. **BOOBOOK/SPOTTED OWL** *Ninox novae-seelandiae* Resident. Pairs.
79. **WINKING OWL/BARKING OWL** *N. connivens* Pairs. Rare.
80. **BARN OWL** *Tyto alba* Pairs. Uncommon.
81. **MUSK LORIKEET** *Trichoglossus concinna*
82. **PURPLE-CROWNED LORIKEET** *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala* Occasional flocks.
83. **WHITE COCKATOO** *Kakatoe galerita* Often fairly numerous. Flocks.
84. **PINK COCKATOO** *K. leadbeateri* Resident. Pairs and flocks increasing.
85. **LITTLE CORELLA** *K. sanguinea* Flocks. Irregular. Shows preference for trees beside water.
86. **GALAH** *K. roseicapilla* Very common resident.
87. **COCKATIEL** *Leptolophus hollandicus* Partially nomadic. Small parties. Spring and summer resident.
88. **REGENT PARROT** *Polytelis anthopeplus* Resident. Flocks and small parties.
89. **YELLOW ROSELLA** *Platycercus flaveolus* Resident. Pairs, small parties. Common in forest areas.
90. **EASTERN ROSELLA** *P. eximius* Rare. Needs further confirmation.
91. **RINGNECK PARROT** *Barnardius barnardi* Resident. Pairs and common.

92. **RED-BACKED PARROT/RED-RUMPED PARROT** *Psephotus haematonotus* Resident. Flocks. Common.
93. **MULGA/SPECTRUM PARROT** *P. varius* Resident. Pairs and small parties. Fairly common in big mallee areas.
94. **BLUE BONNET** *P. haematogaster* Resident. Pairs and small parties. Keeps mainly to belah and big mallee
95. **BLUE-WINGED PARROT** *Neophema chrysostoma* Rare. Irregular?
96. **BUDGERYGAH** *Melopsittacus undulatus* Flocks. Nomadic. Spring and Summer resident.
97. **TAWNY FROGMOUTH** *Podargus strigoides* Resident. Singly. Fairly common.
98. **OWLET-NIGHTJAR** *Aegotheles cristata* Resident. Uncommon.
99. **LAUGHING KOOKABURRA** *Dacelo gigas* Resident. Pairs. Fairly common in forest areas.
100. **RED-BACKED KINGFISHER** *Halcyon pyrrhopygius* Spring and summer resident. Pairs.
101. **SACRED KINGFISHER** *H. sanctus* Spring and summer resident. Pairs.
102. **RAINBOW-BIRD** *Merops ornatus* Spring and summer resident. Fairly common.
103. **SPOTTED NIGHTJAR** *Eurostopodus guttatus* Resident. Singles. Sparsely distributed.
104. **SPINE-TAILED SWIFT** *Hirundapus caudacutus* Scattered flocks. Occasional.
105. **FORK-TAILED SWIFT** *Apus pacificus* Scattered flocks. Occasional.
106. **PALLID CUCKOO** *Cuculus pallidus* Spring arrival. Pairs.
107. **FAN-TAILED CUCKOO** *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus* Spring arrival. Pairs. Rare.
108. **BLACK-EARED CUCKOO** *Misocalius osculans* Very rare.
109. **HORSFIELD BRONZE-CUCKOO** *Chalcites basalis* Spring arrival. Scattered pairs.
110. **WELCOME SWALLOW** *Hirundo neoxena* Resident. Very common.
111. **WHITE-BACKED SWALLOW** *Cheramoeca leucosterna* Partly nomadic. Red sand rises.
112. **AUSTRALIAN TREE-MARTIN** *Hylochelidon nigricans* Resident. Flocks.
113. **FAIRY MARTIN** *H. ariel* Nomadic. Irregular. Flocks. Associates with Nos. 110 and 112.

114. **GREY FANTAIL** *Rhipidura fuliginosa* Pairs. Irregular?
115. **WILLIE WAGTAIL** *R. leucophrys* Resident. Pairs. Fairly common.
116. **RESTLESS FLYCATCHER** *Seisura inquieta* Resident. Pairs. Uncommon.
117. **JACKY WINTER** *Microeca leucophaea* Resident. Pairs. Sparse distribution.
118. **RED-CAPPED ROBIN** *Petroica goodenovii* Resident. Pairs.
119. **FLAME ROBIN** *P. phoenicea* Rare. Winter visitor.
120. **HOODED ROBIN** *P. cucullata* Resident. Uncommon. Pairs.
121. **GOLDEN WHISTLER** *Pachycephala pectoralis* Resident. Odd pairs.
122. **RUFIOUS WHISTLER** *P. rufiventris* Resident. Pairs. Fairly frequent.
123. **RED-THROATED WHISTLER** *P. rufogularis* Pairs. Very rare.
124. **GILBERT WHISTLER** *P. inornata* Pairs. Very rare.
125. **GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH** *Colluricincla harmonica* Pairs. Resident. Fairly well distributed.
126. **MAGPIE-LARK** *Grallina cyanoleuca* Resident. Pairs. Common near water.
127. **CRESTED BELLBIRD** *Oreoica gutturalis* Resident. Pairs. Uncommon.
128. **GROUND CUCKOO-SHRIKE** *Pteropodocys maxima* Small parties. Uncommon.
129. **BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE** *Coracina novae-hollandiae* Parties and small flocks, mainly in spring.
130. **LITTLE CUCKOO-SHRIKE** *C. robusta* Apparently rare and irregular.
131. **WHITE-WINGED TRILLER** *Lalage sueurii* Spring arrival. Pairs.
132. **CHESTNUT QUAIL-THRUSH** *Cinlosoma castanotum* Resident. Pairs. Scattered throughout porcupine grass areas.
133. **SOUTHERN SCRUB-ROBIN** *Drymodes brunneopygia* Resident. Scattered pairs.
134. **WHITE-BROWED BABBLER** *Pomatosotomus superciliosus* Resident. Small parties.
135. **CHESTNUT-CROWNED BABBLER** *P. ruficeps* Resident. Small parties.
136. **WHITE-FRONTED CHAT** *Epthianura albifrons* Pairs and small parties. Open areas.
137. **CRIMSON CHAT** *E. tricolor* Flocks. Irregular.

138. **ORANGE CHAT** *E. aurifrons* Flocks. Rare and irregular.
139. **BROWN WEEBILL** *Smicrorhis brevirostris* Resident. Small parties. Common.
140. **EASTERN WHITEFACE** *Aphelocephala leucopsis* Resident. Parties. Keeps to fairly open places.
141. **LITTLE THORNBILL** *Acanthiza nana* Resident. Small parties. Mainly in scrub.
142. **RED-TAILED THORNBILL** *A. pusilla hamiltoni* Resident. Small parties. Keeps to scrub.
143. **CHESTNUT-TAILED THORNBILL** *A. uropygialis* Resident. Small parties. Mainly in scrub.
144. **YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL** *A. chrysorrhoa* Resident. Common.
145. **SHY GROUND-WREN** *Hylacola cauta* Resident. Odd pairs. Scrub.
146. **RUFIOUS FIELD-WREN** *Calamanthus campestris* Isolated pairs in saline depressions.
147. **BROWN SONGLARK** *Cinclorhamphus cruralis* Spring arrival. Odd pairs in grassy areas.
148. **RUFIOUS SONGLARK** *C. mathewsi* Spring arrival. Pairs. Timber.
149. **STRIATED GRASS-WREN** *Amytornis striatus* Resident. Scattered throughout porcupine grass areas.
150. **LITTLE GRASSBIRD** *Megalurys gramineus* Pairs. Uncommon Rank water-side growth.
151. **AUSTRALIAN REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus australis* Spring arrival.
152. **MALLEE EMU-WREN** *Stipiturus mallee* Resident. Small parties. Porcupine grass.
153. **BLACK-BACKED BLUE WREN** *Malurus melanotus* Resident. Small parties. Scrub.
154. **PURPLE-BACKED WREN** *M. assimilis* Resident. Small parties. Scrub.
155. **WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-SWALLOW** *Artamus leucorhynchus* Spring arrival. Flocks. About water.
156. **MASKED WOOD-SWALLOW** *A. personatus* Spring arrival. Flocks. Associates with No. 157.
157. **WHITE-BROWED WOOD-SWALLOW** *A. superciliosus* Spring arrival. Flocks. Common.
158. **BLACK-FACED WOOD-SWALLOW** *A. cinereus* Irregular. Small parties.
159. **DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW** *A. cyanopterus* Resident. Parties or small flocks.
160. **BLACK-CAPPED SITTELLA** *Neositta pileata* Resident. Small parties.
161. **BROWN TREE-CREEPER** *Climacteris picumma* Resident. Fairly common.
162. **MISTLETOE-BIRD** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* Resident. Pairs.
163. **YELLOW-TAILED PARDALOTE** *Pardalotus xanthopygus* Resident. Pairs. Mallee scrub. Common.
164. **STRIATED PARDALOTE** *P. substriatus* Resident. Pairs. Very common.
165. **EASTERN STRIATED PARDALOTE** *P. ornatus* Resident? Odd pairs.
166. **GREY-BACKED SILVEREYE** *Zosterops lateralis* Flocks. Irregular.
167. **BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER** *Meliphaga brevirostris* Resident. Small parties.
168. **STRIPED HONEYEATER** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata* Resident. Pairs.
169. **BLACK HONEYEATER** *Myzomela nigra* Spring arrival. Pairs.
170. **TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER** *Gliciphila melanops* Spring arrival?
171. **WHITE-FRONTED HONEYEATER** *G. albifrons* Flocks. Fairly numerous at times during some springs.
172. **SINGING HONEYEATER** *Meliphaga virescens* Odd pairs. Regular.
173. **WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER** *M. leucotis* Resident. Pairs. Common.
174. **PURPLE-GAPED HONEYEATER** *M. cratitia* Spring arrival? Flocks. Irregular?
175. **YELLOW-PLUMED HONEYEATER** *M. ornata* Resident. Pairs. Common.
176. **WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER** *M. penicillata* Resident. Fairly common, mainly in forest area.
177. **NOISY MINER** *Myzantha melanocephala* Resident. Very common. Forest.
178. **YELLOW-THROATED MINER** (*M. flavigula*) Resident. Very common. Mallee.
179. **DUSKY MINER** *M. obscura* Resident. Odd parties in mallee areas.
180. **RED WATTLE-BIRD** *Anthochaera carunculata* Nomadic.
181. **SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER** *Acanthagenys rufogularis* Resident. Fairly well distributed.

182. **BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER** *Entomozon cyanotis* Resident. Small parties. Forest.
183. **LITTLE FRIAR-BIRD** *Philemon citreogularis* Spring arrival. Common.
184. **AUSTRALIAN PIPIT** *Anthus australis* Resident. Pairs. Open areas.
185. **HORSFIELD BUSHLARK** *Mirafrajavanica* Rare. Irregular.
186. **ZEBRA FINCH** *Taeniopygia castanotis* Flocks. Irregular.
187. **GREY JUMPER/APOSTLE-BIRD** *Struthidea cinerea* Resident. Few flocks.
188. **SPOTTED BOWER-BIRD** *Chlamydera maculata* Very rare. Odd pairs.
189. **AUSTRALIAN RAVEN** *Corvus coronoides* Resident. Very common.
190. **LITTLE CROW** *C. bennetti* Resident. Small flocks.
191. **WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH** *Corcorax melanorhamphus* Resident. Small flocks. Fairly common.
192. **BLACK-WINGED CURRAWONG** *Strepera melanoptera* Resident. Pairs. Scrub.
193. **PIED BUTCHER-BIRD** *Cracticus nigrogularis* Resident. Odd pairs.
194. **GREY BUTCHER-BIRD** *C. torquatus* Resident. Pairs. Fairly common.
195. **BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE** *Gymnorhina tibicen* Resident. Pairs. Common.
196. **WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE** *G. hypoleuca* Odd birds. Resident.

• INTRODUCED SPECIES

1. **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris* Resident. Small flocks.
2. **HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus* Resident. Flocks. Dwellings.
3. **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis* Resident? Odd birds.
4. **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* Twice. Lake Hattah.

BIRDS

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