

Some Birds Occurring at the Reedbeds, on the Adelaide Plains, this Summer.

BY S. A. WHITE.

For the first time in my recollection five White-browed Babblers (*Morganornis* [*pomatorhinus*] *superciliosus*) put in their appearance at "Wetunga" in January. Their harsh cry is heard every day, and they spend much time amongst the fruit trees, where they are doing much good in searching out the codlin moth grubs.

Every year we have the Brush Wattle Bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera intermedia*) with us, and very often they nest and remain with us through the year. It is not uncommon for these birds to rear two broods, and in one instance they brought out the third batch.

In company with the above we have the Red Wattle Bird (*Anthochaera carunculata tregellasi*) with us this season. Their strange note is often heard in the pear trees, where they certainly eat a little fruit, but nothing to warrant their destruction.

During the month of January attention was called by their strange gurgling note of the Spring-checked Honey Eater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis cygnus*). These birds come down upon the plains some summers but not regularly, and I have never known them to nest here.

The Southern White-bearded Honey Eater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae subassimilis*) is plentiful at times in the garden, where they occasionally build their nests, then for two or three seasons they will almost disappear. It is during the dry seasons that these birds are most numerous on the plains. The *meliornis* are much persecuted by *Ptilotis pinicollata*. In the summer evenings they are very fond of hawking for insects when many of their aerial movements are very neat and graceful.

The graceful little Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris loftyi*) visits the plains nearly every summer. One or two remain in the gardens for a few months, then return to the ranges. They spend the day visiting one flowering plant after another, thrusting their slender bills into each blossom in search of nectar and insects. They become very quiet and trustful after a time. I have never known these birds to nest here.

Wood Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*).—These birds (which we have known up to lately in Gould's works as *A. sordidus*) visit the Adelaide Plains nearly every year in the late autumn. A pair (presumably the same) have remained in the well-timbered grounds near the house all through the year, and have nested for three years running. Two seasons they brought out a second clutch, and the nest has been placed almost in the same spot each year. They have become very quiet and trustful, and will often fly down for insects from their nesting place right to the pathway and in front of our feet and pick up crickets and other insects. It is not at all uncommon to see them perched upon the chimney tops or towers. They are often seen hanging to the water taps catching the drips. Their first broods were three in number and second two birds were hatched. The young re-

mained all the summer and up to the following spring with the parent birds, but when the nesting season approached they were missed. More than likely the parent birds drove them off prior to their preparing for nesting themselves.
