

## Food of Crows.

In the "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. IX, p. 183, mention is made of three Crows (*Corvus ceciliae*) having been shot at Islington on 6th September, 1927, on their attacking a lamb. Mr. A. M. Lea, F.E.S., of the S.A. Museum, found the contents of the stomachs to be (1) skin and wool of lamb, eight large caterpillars, and parts of large spider; (2) one caterpillar and bits of grass; (3) skin and wool of lamb, eleven large caterpillars, larva of ground beetle, African boxthorn berry and seeds, and bits of eggshell, identified by Dr. A. M. Morgan as those of a hen's egg.

The general colour of the chick was reddish-buff, the feathers barred and mottled with black and with a few more conspicuous black marks on the crown of the head and greater wing-coverts, the spots on the primaries being yellowish, as in the adult. The feathers of the face extended almost to the tip of the beak. The middle claws were partially pectinate, the left a little more so than the right. Iris, dark brown; bill, horn colour (tip only showing); legs and feet, greyish brown. There was no white mark on the throat or on the primaries. The young bird squeaked as it was picked up, and the parent at once came flying from the scrub direct to the spot at a height of about three feet from the ground. It settled about 25 feet from us amongst some stones, and did a wounded-bird performance, flapping its wings, and at the same time inflating the throat to make the white patch stand out very conspicuously. The white mark seemed to reach back behind the ear-coverts. While this was going on the bird clapped its mandibles together six or seven times, making a sound like the "Pop-pop-pop" of the usual call, but not so loud. The performance was repeated several times, and then the bird flew into the scrub about 50 yards away and once gave its usual call, something like "Caw, caw, caw-caw-caw, gobble, gobble, gobble." Mr. Sutton thought the "caws" were repeated more quickly than usual and the "gobble, gobble, gobble" part of the call was more like "Pop, pop, pop" about twelve times repeated. The nesting site was bare red sand and some scattered small stones. I had not previously seen or read a description of the young of this species, and its reddish colour at once suggested to me that those specimens of Nightjars in which a rufous tint appears are probably immature birds.

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