
Bird Notes.

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By Walter J. Harvey, Coombe, S.A.

Letter of 4th June, 1931.—A White-Naped Honeyeater (*Melithreptus lunatus*) was seen here on 31st May, in company with White-plumed (*Meliphaga penicillata*) and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga ornata*).

Letter of 19th June, 1931.—On 26th April a bird with some red plumage in a eucalypt and then in a tree-lucerne was identified as a male Mistletoe-Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*) the first that I have seen here.

On 29th April I saw a flock of about 100 Red-capped Dotterels (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)—another new record.

With regard to large numbers of Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*), I have had one such experience here between March and June, 1925: I was ploughing in some wheat stubble, about 30 acres in extent, and for two days the Stubble Quail were there in thousands.

Letter of 26th September, 1931.—I saw my first Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*), Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo on 12th August,

Bird Notes.

although I had heard one calling for some days; but I saw no Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) until 3rd September, and had come to the conclusion weeks before that they had left us out this year. I saw a Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*) on 27th April. I found a pair of White-backed Swallows (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*) nesting in a cutting through a sandhill on the railway line on 12th August. I did not disturb the tunnel, so do not know whether they had eggs or young. I have seen no Bustards (*Eupodotis australis*) this year as yet. A pair of Collared Sparrowhawks (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*) are building in a tree by a thatched shed, nice and close to the Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). The Ringneck Parrots (*Barnardius barnardi*) are very numerous and are having a wonderful time biting the fruit off the trees. They have started on the almonds and will keep it up as long as there are any left on the trees. In a tree alongside the smithy a pair of Black-winged Currawongs (*Strepera melanoptera*) have a nest with young ones in it. The parents are having a woeful time, as two pairs of Red-Wattle Birds (*Anthochaera carunculata*) have nests in adjacent trees, and, notwithstanding the much greater size of the Currawongs, they are ceaselessly attacked by the Wattle Birds. One pair of the latter got their brood on the wing to-day, so doubtless the Currawongs are looking forward to the time when the others will leave and allow them to feed in peace. Emus (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) have been very troublesome all this season, many of them hanging around the settlements right from harvest time. Last Friday, 25th September, I was riding around the sheep and came across a female with eleven chicks. The dog ran at them, and the adult, as usual when with her brood, chased the dog, but he killed a chick and tore the adult so badly that I had to destroy it. It was slightly over 80 inches from toe to end of bill, and its stomach contained grasses, mostly wheat, and some rough scrub food.

Letter of 17th December, 1931.—On 21st October I noticed three Blue-winged Parrots (*Noephema chrysostoma*) feeding in a paddock of rye. I saw them several times after that for a period of five weeks, eleven being the most seen at any one time. On 23rd October, whilst riding through a neighbour's block, I had the good fortune to have a really good look at the Striated Grass-Wren (*Amytornis striatus*). I had my attention attracted by a mild commotion in some low bushes through which I was riding, before I alighted from my horse three of the birds were

Bird Notes.

in full view, flying or hopping about quite close to me. I am convinced that in some way I had interfered with their domestic arrangements, but I could find no nest despite a vigorous search. As I had my field-glasses with me I had a fine view of the birds as there was little cover for some yards around and their apparent anxiety made them unexpectedly bold, as on several occasions one or other of them was within a yard of me. I feel sure that they were the Striated, as the black stripe of the cheek was so distinct.

Masked Wood-Swallows (*Artamus personatus*) made their first appearance on 12th November. They were very restless and only stayed for a few days. As far as I could see there were no White-browed (*A. superciliosus*) in their company on this occasion.

Blue Mountain Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*).—There have been odd pairs and small flocks of this species about. First seen on 22nd November.

Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*).—Some friends, several of whom are familiar with the species, saw a small flock of Regent Parrots one mile north of Coombe on 14th November. This date is a month earlier than my record.

Little Eagle (*Hieraetus morphnoides*).—Some years ago I caught a bird that resembled this eagle in a rabbit trap. Since then, on a number of occasions, I have seen birds in flight not unlike it. On 8th July I saw an Eagle fly over the house, and its peculiar action caused me to make this note—"Small Eagle flew over house, faint whistle, flying with distinct up and down line of flight, swooping and rising with regularity, probably Little Eagle." Dr. C. Sullivan in *The Emu*, Vol. XXXI, page 129, describes this method of flight for this Eagle.