

Bird Notes.

Notes from Orroroo.—Mr. James T. Gray wrote on 18th June, 1932:—"The country is well grassed, so spring and summer should be very favourable for birds. Mr. Darke spoke to you of a Grebe on the dam here. I find it was a Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*). On two occasions since winter set in birds have hit roofs of houses when flying on clear moonlight nights (frosty). I am told here that it has happened with Ducks previously. The two birds I have are a Hoary-headed Grebe and a Coot (*Fulica atra*). Neither bird could fly after hitting the roof, and they were found walking about with the fowls next morning. Both had the chest bruised; both died on the second day. Hoary-headed Grebes are in fair numbers on the Irrigation Dam, and I have seen Coots there. Chestnut-eared Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) nested well about the town last summer. There are very many of them about at present. I frequently see as many as 40/50 feeding about the edge of the town in the grass. At the beginning of summer I would see but an occasional pair—they were never in flocks. One pair built a nest in a cypress hedge near a gate; evidently being disturbed, they abandoned the nest with four eggs. They then built further along the hedge near another gate. This nest with three eggs was also abandoned. After that they built further in the yard in a 'white lucerne' tree and brought out a brood. Later two more nests were built in the 'lucerne' trees and they brought out a brood each time. The fledglings occupied the old nest each time and continue to do so at night (up to June). On going to any of these nests at dusk three to four birds fly out. I also noticed nests built in a rose pergola in the town occupied by birds at night still (June). A Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) was brought to me to-day. It was easily caught by hand in a chaffhouse, evidently exhausted. It died a few moments after capture. It was a ♂, total length, 6 inches; spread of wings, 12 inches. The plumage was in good condition, but the body was in a very poor state. Fairy Martins (*Hylochelidon ariel*) are common here and build in caves about creeks; a fair number of White-backed Swallows (*Cheramoecca leucosterna*) are noticed, but I have only occasionally seen a Welcome Swallow. Would the Welcome Swallow migrate from here as the winters are cold?⁽¹⁾ (We are

(¹)About Adelaide the Welcome Swallows are not migratory to any great extent. They seem to gather into flocks in the winter months and use a common roosting place. See Dr. Morgan's articles in Volume II, pages 116 and 168.

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over 1,300 feet above sea-level.) I saw a Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) on 30th April. It was tearing open an old 'Social Caterpillars' nest. Is not this early?⁽²⁾ A Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus guttatus*), ♂, was brought to me. The following additional species have been noted since my lists on pages 103 and 135, Volume XI:—*Porzana fluminea*, Spotted Crake, in the reeds in Pekina Creek; *Fulica atra*, Coot; *Platalea flavipes*, Yellow-billed Spoonbill, five were on the Irrigation Dam, Orreroo; *Notophox pacifica*, White-necked (Pacific) Heron, on the Irrigation Dam; *Eurostopodus guttatus*, Spotted Nightjar."

⁽²⁾ Yes. But probably the very warm weather in the early part of the autumn may have had something to do with their arrival.—Editors.)