
*HARVEY—Birds of the Coombe District.***Birds of the Coombe District.**

By Walter J. Harvey. 11/5/1933.

From notes made since my last letter, 10/10/1932, I pass on the following:—The first Budgerygahs (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) I saw on 29th October. There were nine in the flock; after that date for three or four months they were fairly numerous, although never in large flocks. On 30th October telegraph linesmen found a Cockatoo-Parrot's (*Leptolophus hollandicus*) nest with five eggs in it in a belt of timber on our property. All the eggs hatched out—this is the first record I have of their nesting locally. As far as I know there were only nine adult birds about at the time; however, another pair must have nested somewhere handy, as I saw three young birds, scarcely able to fly, about the middle of November. On 1st November the Masked and White-browed Wood-Swallows (*Artamus personatus* and *A. superciliosus*) began to arrive. They were not as numerous as in the past few years, did not stay long, and, as far as my observations go, they did not nest locally. On 10th November I got a Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*), the only one that I can remember seeing here. On 12th November I tapped a large hollow in a eucalypt, and a Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) flew out. On examining the hollow I found three young ones, two almost fully fledged and very ferocious, the third about one-third of the size of the others, with only white down as a covering. The disparity in the sizes seemed to me to be peculiar, if not unusual. On 18th December a few Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) appeared. There are still a few about, but they have never been a common bird here. On 13th January, 1933, when riding around the property, I saw a Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*) standing on a low bush. It allowed me to approach within half-a-chain before it flushed. It is the second time that I have seen the species here. On 20th January, 1933, I saw a Parrot of the *Neophema* species in dense banksia scrub, but could not identify it with any certainty. On 23rd March the first of the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos (*Calyptrorhynchus funereus*) put in an appearance, but they were not numerous until the day after the break of the season, 10th April. Since then they have been with us practically up to date of writing. On 13th April I saw the first Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*). ♂, for the season; on 18th April, when driving along

the Woods' Well-Keith road, I saw another ♂ Robin, probably of the same species. The gumtrees are in full blossom now, and the Musk Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*) are very numerous, with a fair number of Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*G. porphyrocephala*) present, too. There are five smaller ones, most probably the Little Lorikeet (*G. pusilla*), but I cannot secure one to make sure. Last spring, or early summer, a pair of Collared Sparrowhawks (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*) gave indications of building close to the house, but a man (?) with a gun shot one, so I despaired of having a pair of them rear their young and frighten other birds away from the garden, but a pair did nest in a tree alongside the smithy and reared four young ones. They are the best bird-scares that I know of, and once the nest was built they set to work to move any bird smaller than a White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*). They did the job very well, and until the young ones had been out of the nest, for three or four weeks they kept about the house and garden. The result was that we had more fruit come to maturity this season than ever before, but after they had left the later fruits suffered heavily, chiefly from the Ring-neck Parrots (*Barnardius barnardi*). Some of the settlers around Tintinara tether young Collared Sparrowhawks in their gardens to keep birds away. They say that the parents continue to feed the young. To-day my brother reported having seen twenty odd Emus (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) on the stubble having a race with the sheep.
