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*Bird Notes.*

By N. Hiles Pearse. "The Gums Station," Florieton, S.A.

The following notes on birds seen since I last wrote you, 25/10/1932, may be of interest. Birds noted on various occasions were:—One Ground Cuckoo-Shrike (*Pteropodocys maxima*) feeding on the ground in speargrass near the homestead—first specimen noted here. Six Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*) were feeding on the ground near the same spot, some weeks later. Have not seen so many in one flock before, and never on the ground. One Major Mitchell Cockatoo (*Kakatoe leadbeateri*) was found in a delapidated condition in a myall tree near the homestead, minus nearly all of its feathers, and just sufficient rainbow crest left to identify it. It was either very old or had been attacked by other birds; an old scar showed on one wing. It was fed for a day or so and then released; it stayed around in the trees for a few weeks, but later was found dead under pepper-trees. A Cormorant, probably a Pied (*Phalacrocorax varius*) or Little Pied (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*), was observed sitting on the rim of a large open squatter's tank near the house, and a White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*) was seen on the same tank later. A Cormorant, one of the above species, recently dived into a small open squatter's tank at my brother's home, right in the black oak scrub, and when he shot the bird he found a full-sized goldfish intact inside the stomach. There are a

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number of fish in the tank. An Owl,\* so light in colour as to appear almost white, recently flew out of the woolshed when disturbed. It was sitting on a beam. A Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) attacked several Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) and drove them singly from a large gumtree near my fruit garden into a clump of bamboos. One landed on a fence just above my head. The Falcon was very vindictive, but was unsuccessful. Later I saw it chasing a Mallee Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*), and in turn being chased by that bird's mate. It ignored Magpies and Miners (*Myzantha*), but all the smaller birds went to shelter in a hurry. Five Emus (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) have been in my cow paddock for months, two large and three small ones, feeding on the red-berried bushes which grow in profusion on swamp country under the big gums. They have become very tame, and lately have been seen picking up scraps of offal at the place where the rabbiters gut their rabbits. They will allow one to approach within a few yards before moving leisurely off. There are quite a lot of the birds about the run, and a fair proportion of them are in the half-grown stage. I still feed scraps of meat to a number of White and Black-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca* and *G. tibicen*); also my pair of Grey Butcher-Birds (*Cracticus torquatus*) are in evidence again, filling the gardens with their glorious song, and the pair of Magpie Larks (*Crallina cyano-leuca*) still feed daily in the fowl-yard. Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia placida*) are more plentiful than usual, and there are great mobs of Crested Pigeons.

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\* Most probably the Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*).—Editors.