

Bird Notes.

Birds of the Lowbank District.

By Max. S. Kuss.

The following notes are supplemental to those published in the July issue:—

Stubble Quail, *Coturnix temporalis*.—This species has now been definitely identified, a specimen having been handled.

Grebe, *Podiceps*, sp.—Flocks of these birds have been noticed on our chief lagoon, but they keep in the centre, and I have not yet been able to decide whether they are the Little, *ruficollis*, or the Hoary-headed, *poliiocephalus*.

Purple-crowned Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*.—A flock of six was noticed in the mallee three miles from the river on 24th August. One nest with three eggs was found in the hollow trunk of an upright mallee. I returned to the nest on 31st August and found the eggs just hatching, one young bird being out and a second beginning to appear. A torch was used to make these observations.

Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura flabellifera*.—A bird was noticed on 30th August in mallee scrub four miles from the river.

Rufous Whistler, *Pachycephala rufiventris*.—A male bird was seen on 23rd August in a small patch of dense scrub growing on the slope of the bank at the edge of a river flat.

Crested Bellbird, *Oreoica gutturalis*.—One bird was noticed on 30th August in mallee scrub five miles from the river. It ran along the ground and seldom flew as it was followed.

White-eared Honeyeater, *Meliphaga leucotis*.—A pair of birds was seen on 13th August in low bushy mallee four miles from the river.

Pied Butcher-Bird, *Cracticus nigrogularis*.—A pair was observed on 28th August amongst box and gumtrees along the river bed.

Pallid Cuckoo, *Cuculus pallidus*.—I saw the first bird for the season on 30th July, perched on a dry mallee and uttering its peculiar whistle.

Purple-backed Wren, *Malurus assimilis*.—For some months I have been puzzled by a pair of Wrens, which appeared from time to time, and were very restless. The male's colours appeared to be—upper, uniform greyish brown; under, whitish; tail, vertical and bluish; bill and eye, black or dark. The following change was noticed on 9th August—from eye round ear, blue patch; rusty-red patch on shoulder, black band on chest—this latter change evidently incomplete.