

Bird Notes.

Notes from Edward's Creek.

By H. Simpson. 21st August, 1933.

I have returned to Edward's Creek, and during the last two months I have noted the following species. (Seventy-five points of rain fell here during last week end, and so the outlook appears to be very promising for a good nesting season). In the sandy beds of the creeks and watercourses *Umu* (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) tracks are often noticed, but the birds themselves keep well hidden, perhaps owing to the fact that there are a number of natives camped on the nearby sandhills. Quail was numerous a month ago, but the species was not identified. A Plain Wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) walked into our cottage, but I could not catch it. This species is rare about here. Doves (sp.) and Shell Parrots (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) have deserted us altogether. One has not been seen for months, and it was only last week that I noticed a few Chestnut-eared Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*). Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) are around in big flocks. A solitary Black-tailed Native Hen (*Tribonyx ventralis*) I flushed out of some lignum in the creek, probably a stray bird, as we do not see them about here, except after a big rain. A Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*) was poisoned by some dingo hunters—the wing span went 7 feet 2 inches. That species is seen occasionally. Fork-tailed Kites (*Milvus migrans*), Brown Hawks (*Falco berigora*), and Nankeen Kestrels (*F. cenchroides*) are common. Bare-eyed Cockatoos (*Kakatoe sanguinea*) and Galahs (*K. roseicapilla*) are seen in large flocks in the creek. They are more numerous now in this locality than ever before. Port Lincoln Parrots (*Barnardius zonarius*) are about in small flocks, and seeking hollows for nesting at present. Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*) are met with occasionally, but Owlet Nightjars (*Aegotheles cristata*) are scarce, at one time they used to be fairly common. Red-backed Kingfishers (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*) are scarce; only one has been seen during the two months. Pallid Cuckoos (*Cuculus pallidus*) can usually be met with frequenting the dry mulgas in secluded watercourses. Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*), White-backed Swallows (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*), Tree Martins (*Hylochelidon nigricans*), and Jacky Winters (*Microeca fascinans*) are common. The Robin family is scarce; none has been noticed up to date. Willie Wagtails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) are everywhere. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*) and White-winged Trillers (*Lalage tricolor*)

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are seen sometimes in the creek. Chestnut-backed Quail-Thrushes (*Cinclosoma castanotum*) are common on the plains and tablelands. White-browed Babblers (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*) are fairly numerous in the gullies. White-winged Wrens (*Malurus cyanotus*) and Purple-backed Wrens (*M. assimilis*) are occasionally met with in secluded bushy gullies, the former are the commoner. Masked Wood-Swallows (*Artamus personatus*) are one of the commonest birds about here. Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) are plentiful, and I rescued one from a mob of Crows, but as the bird had nearly all the top of its head pecked off, it had to be destroyed. This species and the Pigeons (sp.) often are the prey of the Crows. Black-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) and Crested Bell-birds (*Oreoica gutturalis*) are rather common. Mistletoe-Birds (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*) are encountered in the thick scrub. This is the first occasion I have noted them about here. A nest with young ones was found a fortnight ago. Honey-eaters are numerous now that the Eremophila shrubs are laden with flowers. White-plumed (*Meliphaga penicillata leilavalensis*), Singing (*M. virescens*), and Spiny-billed (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) keep the gullies alive with their songs and calls. There is another Honeyeater of a fair size, with a black head and breast, white streaks on its face, back and wings olive brown*. I found a nest of this species containing two young. It was made of rootlets and wool, was circular in shape, and situated about three feet from the ground in a bush. Yellow-throated Miners (*Myzantha flavigula*) and Pipits (*Anthus australis*) are common. Crows (*Corvus*, sp.) are everywhere, but I have not been able to identify the species.

*White-fronted Honeyeater (*Gliciphila albifrons*).—Editors.