

*Bird Notes.*

By Dr. A. Chenery.

At Hope Valley Reservoir, with Dr. A. M. Morgan on 25th September, 1933, in the reeds growing in the water of the leakage, a nest of the Chestnut-breasted Finch (*Donacola castaneothorax*) containing four young was found. The bill of the adult bird was a bluish colour. The habitat of this species is

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given as from tropical North Australia to New South Wales. This pair had evidently escaped from captivity. (In this swamp the Grenadier Weaver (*Pyromelana orix*) nested last year.) Mistletoe Birds (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), and two or three pairs of Brown Songlarks (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*) were seen.

On 24th September at Teatree Gully Pallid Cuckoos (*Cuculus pallidus*) were noted, as well as two young Noisy Miners (*Myzantha melanocephala*) out of the nest.

On 27th September at Camden Swamp there were nine White-headed Stilts (*Himantopus leucocephalus*), a number of Grey Teal (about 500) (*Querquedula gibberifrons*), and about 100 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Erolia acuminata*).

Writing from Wentworth on 6th October, 1933, Dr. Chenery advised:—On 2nd October I heard our first Yellow-throated Friar-Bird (*Philemon citreogularis*), and on the 4th the Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*). The Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*) and the White-breasted Wood-Swallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) have still to come, also the Red-backed Kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*), then the list, as far as I know, of local migrants will be complete. When I was at Mr. Rupert Shannon's place, near Kapunda, S.A., I was told of an interesting example of Mrs. Willy Wagtail's devotion to her nest and eggs. A large vine was trained along the back verandah close to the roof. On this a pair of Wagtails had nested in previous years, usually over the steps leading down to the ground. As the foliage last year interfered with people's heads, Mr. Shannon decided to cut the vine back and remove the portion over the steps. He sawed the limb off and lowered it to the ground outside, and, to his surprise, found the Wagtails had already taken possession of their former site, and had built their nest. When the branch was placed on the ground the three eggs contained in the nest rolled out on to a soft flower bed, and only one was broken. Mrs. Shannon retrieved the other two, wiped them, and replaced them in the nest after she had sawn off about a foot length of the vine with the nest on it. This she hung up again in its accustomed position with wire. When I was out there last Thursday week, the bird was contentedly sitting on the nest, and evidently prepared to rear her reduced brood. One, in going down the steps, could almost reach the nest by stretching the hand above the head.

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*Burhinus magnirostris*, Southern Stone-Curlew.—Mr. Worsley C. Johnston, of Riverton, S.A., wrote on 16/8/1933:—"Last week at Saddleworth I saw two of these birds in the middle of a track that wound through some scrub. The time was about sundown."

Mr. Harold Wade heard one calling in "Urrbrae," Mitcham, between 9 and 10 p.m. on 4th September, 1933.

*Megalurus gramineus*, Little Grassbird.—Dr. A. Chenery heard one of these birds calling from the reeds in the Torrens River, near Frome Road bridge, on 24th and 25th September, 1933.

J. Sutton heard one calling from some thick shrubs at the water's edge of one of the duck ponds in the Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, on 10th October; at the other end of the pond a Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*) was singing.

*Elanus axillaris*, Black-shouldered Kite.—Since the issue of our July part, the occurrence of this species in South Australia has been reported from Coombe, 8/8/1933; Payneham, three birds, 23/8/1933; Port Lincoln, 19/9/1933; near Mallala, a pair, 1/10/1933.

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