
*BRUMMITT—A Trip to the South-East.***A Trip to the South-East of this State.**

By D. W. Brummitt.

This year I made a trip to the South-East, lasting from 12th to 24th November. My companion, Mr. Viner Smith, and I spent most of our time at and around Robe, but we visited Naracoorte and the Bool Lagoon from the 16th to 20th November. Nests of many species were found, but a number of the nests contained young birds. With regard to the birds seen about Robe, I have merely made a list which is additional to that given in the "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. XII, 1933, pp. 57-60. Practically all the birds noted last year were seen again this year, the additions were probably due to my not recognizing the birds on previous trips.

As far as birds were concerned, "Konetta" was a complete "wash-out" this year. All the lagoons and swamps had dried up, and the Nankeen Night Herons had left. No nests with eggs were found at all, but a Willie Wagtail's nest with young was built in the same tree as last year. A Kookaburra nests regularly in a gum tree near the homestead, and had just reared three young. The Collared Sparrowhawks were absent from the pine trees at the homestead.

Bool Lagoon was a different matter. Mr. J. B. Hood rendered us invaluable service, and we would have had a lean time without his aid. Weather conditions were against nesting, and somewhat curtailed our expeditions. On the 18th we spent several hours in Bool Lagoon, and found many nests of different species. A surprising feature was the large number of nests of the Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), which were built in the teatree far out in the lagoon. Golden-headed Fantail-Warblers were probably nesting, but through the stormy conditions we were unable to find any nests. Owing to a rain-squall we did not visit the distant reeds in which the Straw-necked Ibis were nesting in large numbers.

The 19th was spent in the scrub country about six miles south of the teatree. Here again weather conditions made the finding of nests difficult, as the birds would not flush from the trees. However, Swamp Hawks and Brown Bitterns were nesting in small reedy swamps.

We wish to record our appreciation of the hospitality shown to us by Mr. and Mrs. Watson at "Konetta," and Mr. and Mrs. Hood at Bool Lagoon.

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The following is a list of the species seen in the Bool Lagoon district, those with nesting details at the end:—Brush Bronzewing (*Phaps elegans*); Coot (*Fulica atra*); Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*); Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*); Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax ater*); Marsh Tern (*Chlidonias leucopareia*); Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*); Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*); White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*); White Egret (*Egretta alba*); White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*); Nankeen Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*); Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*); Mountain Duck (*Casarca tadornoides*); Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*); Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*); Blue-winged Shoveler (*Spatula rhynchotis*); Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*); Hardhead (*Nyroca australis*); Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*); Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*); Blue Mountain Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*); Musk Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta concinna*); Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus funereus*); White Cockatoo (*Kakatoe galerita*); Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*); Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*); Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*); Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*); Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*); Striated Field-Wren (*Calamanthus fuliginosus*); Golden-headed Fantail-Warbler (*Cisticola exilis*); Superb Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*); Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*); Brown Tree-creeper (*Climacteris picumnus*); Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*); Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga brevisrostris*); White-eared Honeyeater (*Meliphaga leucotis*); White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata*); Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*); Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*); Little Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*); Red Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*); Pipit (*Anthus australis*); Horsfield Bushlark (*Mirafra javanica*); Diamond Firetail (*Zonaeginthus guttatus*); Raven (*Corvus coronoides*); White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*); White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).

The nesting details were:—

Lewin Water-Rail (*Rallus pectoralis*).—A nest, probably of this bird, was found completed.

Blue Bald-Coot (*Porphyrio melanotus*).—A nest with a recently hatched chick and a number of eggshells.

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Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*).—Large numbers of nests found; as a rule they nested in company with the Spoonbills. Most of the nests contained young, but in one large colony all had eggs—the usual number was four, but several contained five eggs.

White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*).—A number of nests found, most nests contained young, but a few had eggs, the usual number being three.

Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*).—Were nesting in a large "rookery," but we did not visit it.

Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*).—Were nesting in the tea-tree, most nests contained young, but several clutches of eggs, mostly of three, were found.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*).—These were not as common as the Royal. Several nests with eggs were found. Both species of young Spoonbills were much troubled by the heavy rain, and many nests contained dead or dying birds.

Brown Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*).—A nest with two eggs and another with five eggs were found. A number of nests were in course of construction.

Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*).—Deserted nests were seen.

Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*).—Two nests—one with four eggs, the other with three.

Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*).—A nest with two eggs.

Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*).—One nest, which contained two eggs and some chicks.

Crimson Rosella (*Platycercus elegans*).—A nest with four eggs.

Red-backed Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*).—A nest in a hollow in a dead gum tree contained three eggs.

Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*).—A nest with three young.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—Many nests, chiefly with four eggs, were seen.

Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*).—A nest in a hollow in a gum tree contained three eggs.

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).—A nest in a gum tree with three eggs.

Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*).—A nest in the tea-tree contained young.

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Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—Two nests, one with three eggs, the other with one egg and chicks.

Grey-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*).—Many empty nests were found. The birds seemed interested in some of them.

White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*).—A nest with two eggs.

Little Grassbird (*Megalurus gramineus*).—Two nests each containing three eggs.

Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*).—Several new nests were found in the reeds, one contained an egg.

Grey-backed Silveryeye (*Zosterops halimaturina*).—A nest in the teatree contained three eggs.

A trip was made to Nora Creina Bay. The Silver Gulls (*Larus novae-hollandiae*) had finished nesting—only a few young unable to fly were present. At Little Dip Silver Gulls and a Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*) were nesting on the islet. Five clutches of two eggs and three of one egg of the Silver Gulls were seen, and in the Oystercatcher's nest there was one egg only.

A nest of the Grey Goshawk (*Astur novae-hollandiae*) was found in one of a clump of gumtrees near Robe. The nest was about 40 feet from the ground, built of sticks and lined with gum-leaves. The bird kept flying around and perching in the tree whilst I climbed to the nest. It uttered a peculiar cry the whole time. There were three eggs, two heavily incubated, and one infertile.

A clutch of four eggs of the Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*) was taken at Mount Benson.

Only a few Turnstones and Eastern Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominicus*) were seen at Boatswain Point. I think this was due to the off-sea wind causing birds to seek food in a more sheltered position. The chief reason for visiting the Point was to try to find nests of the Hooded Dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*), but we did not see a single specimen of the bird itself.

The scrub around Robe was practically neglected by us. We only visited the gumtrees where the Grey Goshawk nested, some small trees near one of the lakes and some scrub at Lake Robe. A nest of the White-browed Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis frontalis*) was found in a peculiar place. In a cave caused by

the weathering of a face of rock there were several shelves formed, and the nest was built between two of these shelves at about three feet from the ground. There were three heavily incubated eggs in the nest.

The following species, which were not seen at Robe on this occasion, were quite plentiful last year:—Nankeen Night-Heron; Hooded Dotterel; and Blue Mountain Lorikeet. The additional species seen were:—Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*); Grey Goshawk; Collared Sparrowhawk; Restless Flycatcher; Grey Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*); Brown Thornbill; and Striated Field-Wren.
