

---

*Bird Notes.*

Notes on Birds in the Lower North, S.A. By Worsley C. Johnston, Riverton. 30th September, 1934.

*Geopelia placida*, Peaceful Dove.—These birds are fairly common in all of the scrubs in the Lower North. I have seen as many as nine together a little to the west of Sevenhills, and a few pairs can be found in the scrubs near Riverton.

*Porphyrio melanotus*, Eastern Swamphen or Blue Bald Coot.—These are by no means common, but fourteen of them were seen on a dam at Martindale Station in the beginning of June, 1934. I am told that they are fairly frequent visitors to this particular spot, where they are assured of protection.

*Haliaeetus leucogaster*, White-breasted Sea-Eagle.—A pair of these very fine birds was noted on 6th August, 1934, at Fisherman's Bay, near Port Broughton. They were flushed from a swamp, and flew out to sea.

*Elanus axillaris*, Black-shouldered Kite.—These birds were fairly numerous in the Southern parts of this State during 1933, and they seem to have gone North again, but one bird was seen at Tarlee on 27th April of this year.

*Leptolophus hollandicus*, Cockatoo Parrot.—These birds, which are visitors to these parts, do not usually arrive here until the end of November, but flocks up to, say, twenty individuals, were seen at Wokurna on 24th July, 1934. They were observed at Riverton on 27th and 28th of the same month, and at Giles Corner on 28th September. They were reported to have been at this last place for some weeks past, and, although there was some evidence to suggest breeding, no nests were found. At Riverton on 28th July the birds were making their

---

*Bird Notes.*

mating call, and several pairs were examining the hollows in trees, as though they were looking for nesting sites, but they did not remain at this centre for more than a few days.

*Psephotus haematogaster*, Blue Bonnet.—A pair of these Parrots was noticed within four miles of Riverton during the spring of 1931. It would appear that this pair nested in this locality, as before the end of the summer there were five birds to be seen. The whole five remained here for about twelve months, and then disappeared.

*Melopsittacus undulatus*, Budgerygah.—These birds were very plentiful in the summer of 1932, but very few of them were to be found last summer. At Wirrilla, near Auburn, a flock of this species was noted during August, 1934, and it was reported by the landholder that the birds had been there all the winter. They frequented the pigsties and runs, where food supplies in the shape of grain were very plentiful; these birds appear to have left the district about the end of September.

*Aegotheles cristata*, Owllet Nightjar.—These birds were very common in the scrubs around Riverton in the summer of 1932, when it was possible to flush two or three out of their hollows on every day a visit was paid, but they seem to have moved from these haunts, as it is very difficult to find any at the present time.

*Dacelo gigas*, Laughing Kookaburra.—These are permanent residents about the district of Riverton. A pair was observed to nest in a disused rabbit's burrow on the edge of the quarry from which the ballast for the Clare railway line was taken. Unfortunately, the nest was later robbed of the eggs.

---