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Nesting Activities in the Eastern Portion of Kangaroo Island. Season 1936-7.

By Allen F. C. Lashmar. 18/3/1937.

The asterisk indicates the record of a new species since my article in the "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. XIII, p. 200, 1936—the species identified by me now total 82. In the particulars no nest has been counted twice.

Eudyptula minor, Little Penguin.—The first nest containing two eggs was seen on 17th August, 1936; many nests were noted until 11th October, on which date the last nest was observed with eggs. During that period the nests found contained either one or two eggs or young: they were under either rocks or furze. Birds were moulting on 20th February, 1937.

Coturnix pectoralis, Stubble Quail.—On 9th December, a nest with nine eggs. Many young, just flying, were seen in January, 1937.

Porzana pusilla, Marsh-Crake.—On 15th November, two nests ready for eggs, and one being built. All the nests were about six inches above the water in reeds growing in the water.

Gallinula tenebrosa, Dusky Moorhen.—On 18th October, a nest with five eggs of the Moorhen and one egg of a Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*). The nest was in a teatree branch floating on the water, which was two feet deep.

Lobibyx novae-hollandiae, Spur-winged Plover.—On 16th August, a nest with three eggs; 9th September, one with four eggs; on 18th September, one with four chicks, just hatched.

Zonifer tricolor, Banded Plover.—On 5th August, a nest with four eggs; on 9th August, one with four eggs; on 9th September, one with three eggs.

Charadrius cucullatus, Hooded Dotterel.—On 7th November, a nest with two eggs; on 8th November, one with three eggs; on 15th November, one with two chicks and an egg hatching.

Charadrius ruficapillus, Red-capped Dotterel.—On 7th November, a nest with two chicks, just hatched.

Burhinus magnirostris, Southern Stone-Curlew.—On 31st August three birds were flushed in an area of about one square chain, but nothing was found. On 1st September the three birds were again flushed, and this time a clutch of four eggs was found on the bare ground. There were two distinct ground-colours on the eggs, as though two females had laid in the same place.

Notophoyx novae-hollandiae.—White-faced Heron.—On 30th August a nest containing four eggs was built thirty feet up in a gumtree.

Chenopis atrata, Black Swan.—Twenty-three nests on "Lashmar's Lagoon," containing from three to six eggs and/or young, were noted from 16th August to 25th October. Many young were raised on Chapman's River.

Querquedula castanea, Chestnut Teal.—On 4th September, a nest containing seven eggs was built on the ground under a dead bush. Several pairs have been seen on the Lagoon.

Biziura lobata, Musk Duck.—One egg of this species was found in a nest of a Dusky Moorhen on 18th October.

Uroaetus audax, Wedge-tailed Eagle.—A nest was found on 5th August under construction thirty feet up in a gumtree.

Falco cenchroides, Nankeen Kestrel.—On 4th October, a nest with five eggs eighteen feet up in a break in a rotten gumtree; on 25th October, one with three eggs twenty-five feet from the ground in a "narrow-leaf" eucalypt.

Ninox boobook, Boobook Owl.—On 15th October, a nest with two eggs four feet down in a hollow in a dead gumtree. The entrance to the hollow was fifteen feet from the ground.

Kakatoe roseicapilla, Galah.—On 22nd October, two feet down in a hollow in a dead gumtree, the entrance being sixty feet from the ground, with four newly-hatched young.

Hirundo neoxena, Welcome Swallow.—On 4th October, a nest with four eggs and another with five eggs, each nest in a tank about eight feet high; on 18th October, a nest with three young and another with five eggs, both built in a break-away in a hill-side; on 8th November, a nest with four young and another with three young, each nest built at the top of a verandah-post.

Rhipidura flabellifera, Grey Fantail.—On 20th September, a nest six feet up in a juniper bush with three young.

Seisura inquieta, Restless Flycatcher.—On 15th November, a nest with three young in a "narrow-leaf" eucalypt fourteen feet from the ground.

Petroica multicolor, Scarlet Robin.—On 30th September, a nest ready for eggs, built six feet up in a large open fork of a small gumtree.

Colluricincla harmonica, Grey Shrike-Thrush.—On 29th September, a nest with three large chicks, built four feet up in a "narrow-leaf" eucalypt; on 8th December, a nest ready for eggs, built twenty feet up in a similar tree.

Coracina novae-hollandiae, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.—On 29th October, a nest with two eggs, fourteen feet up on a horizontal fork in a teatree.

Oreocincla lunulata, Ground-Thrush.—On 23rd September, a nest with three eggs, built ten feet up in a "narrow-leaf" eucalypt.

Epthianura albifrons, White-fronted Chat.—On 16th August, a nest with two eggs, built two feet up in a "narrow-leaf" sulphur-bush; on 13th November, another with two eggs, built nine inches up in a similar bush. Many young on the wing were seen between those dates.

Acanthiza lineata, Striated Thornbill.—On 13th September, a nest with three eggs, built four feet up in a prickly acacia.

**Acanthiza* sp., probably *A. pusilla*, Brown Thornbill.—On 7th August, a nest with three eggs, built six feet up in a prickly acacia; on 30th August, a nest with three eggs, three feet up in a similar tree; on 6th September, a nest with small chicks, seven feet up in a small teatree; another with two chicks five feet up in a prickly acacia. On 2nd October, a nest with three chicks three feet up in a similar tree.

Sericornis maculatus, Spotted Scrub-Wren.—On 26th July, a nest with two eggs, built four feet up in a dead bulloak bough; on 2nd August, a nest with two eggs, built three feet up in a dead bulloak bough; on 9th August, a nest with three eggs, built three feet up in a dead bulloak bough; on 19th August, a nest with two eggs, built eighteen inches up in a dead bulloak bough—deserted? On 19th August, a nest with two eggs, built four feet up, over water, in a teatree; on 23rd August, a nest with two eggs, built two feet up, over water, in a teatree; on 28th September, a nest with three eggs, built eighteen inches up in a dead bulloak bough.

**Hylacola cauta*, Shy Ground-Wren.—On 15th August, a nest with three eggs, built thirty inches up from the ground in a green bullock bough leaning nearly horizontal.

**Megalurus gramineus*, Little Grassbird.—On 15th November, a nest with four eggs, built over water, five feet up in a teatree.

Malurus cyaneus, Superb Blue Wren.—On 29th October, a nest with two large young, built four feet up; on 30th October, a nest with three small chicks, built five feet up; and on 12th November, a nest with two chicks, built three feet up—all the nests were in prickly acacia trees.

Zosterops halmaturina, Grey-backed Silvereye.—On 9th August, a nest with two eggs, built three feet up in a "narrow-leaf" eucalypt; on 10th November, a nest with three eggs, built five feet up in a creeper (*Ipomoea*); on 12th November, a nest with two small chicks, built three feet up in a rosebush; on 15th November, a nest with two eggs, built seven feet up in a teatree.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris, Eastern Spinebill.—On 6th September, a nest with two eggs, built nine feet up in a prickly acacia; on 13th September, a nest with two small chicks, built six feet up in a "narrow-leaf" eucalypt.

Meliphaga leucotis, White-eared Honeyeater.—On 7th August, a nest with two eggs, five feet up in a teatree; on 20th August, a nest with two large chicks, built three feet up in a prickly acacia..

Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera, Crescent Honeyeater.—On 4th July, a nest with two eggs, built four feet up in a prickly acacia. Twenty-eight nests containing either two eggs or chicks were seen up to 5th September. The nests varied from a foot to seven feet up—twenty-six of the nests were in prickly acacia and two were about four feet up in "narrow-leaf" eucalypts.

Meliornis novae-hollandiae, Yellow-winged Honeyeater.—On 19th July, a nest with two eggs, built four feet up in a prickly acacia.

Anthochaera carunculata, Red Wattle-Bird.—On 7th August, a nest with two eggs, built fourteen feet up in a gumtree. Fourteen nests containing one or two eggs or young were seen up to 12th November, and were built at heights varying from seven feet to thirty feet up in "narrow-leaf" eucalypts.

Anthus australis, Pipit.—On 6th September, a nest with three eggs; on 9th September, a nest with two eggs; on 13th November, a nest with three eggs; on 15th November, a nest with three young; on 6th December, a nest with two small chicks; and on 26th December, a nest with three eggs.

Aegintha temporalis, Red-browed Finch.—In prickly acacia—on 12th November, a nest seven feet up with five eggs; nest six feet up with six eggs; nest seven feet up with three small young; on 22nd November, nest six feet up with three eggs; nest nine feet up ready for eggs; on 29th November; nest five feet up with four large young; on 5th January, 1937, nest four feet up with four eggs. Three nests were found on 15th November in teatrees at six, eight, and twelve feet respectively. Another nest was found on 22nd November nine feet up in a "narrow-leaf" eucalypt.

Corvus coronoides, Raven.—Nests in "narrow-leaf" eucalypts—on 1st July, nest with five eggs, twenty feet up; 11th July, with five eggs, eighteen feet up; 26th July, with four eggs, thirty feet up; 9th August, with two young and an egg, twenty feet up; 18th August, with four eggs, thirty feet up; 30th August, with four eggs, twenty feet up; another nest with four eggs, twenty-five feet up; 2nd September, with four eggs, twenty-eight feet up; 5th September, with five eggs, forty-five feet up; another with four eggs, thirty feet up; 6th September, with two eggs and two young, twenty-five feet up. On 27th July, with three eggs, fifteen feet up in a sheoak. On 23rd August, with one feathered young, forty feet up in a gumtree.

Strepera melanoptera, Black-winged Currawong.—On 2nd September, a nest with two eggs, fourteen feet up; on 10th September, with two eggs, eleven feet up; on 12th September, with two eggs, eighteen feet up—all nests in "narrow-leaf" eucalypts.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca, White-backed Magpie.—Twenty-one nests were seen between 31st July and 17th September containing from two to five eggs and/or young. The nests were at varied heights from seven feet to forty feet—twenty were in "narrow-leaf" eucalypts and one in a gumtree.

**Podiceps poliocephalus*, Hoary-headed Grebe.—A pair was noted on a small swamp for five weeks from late October, 1936.

**Tringa nebularia*, Greenshank.—This species has always been with us, in singles or pairs, but is very shy, and was only identified recently.

Falco berigora, Brown Hawk.—Three birds have been in our neighbourhood. They are not very timid, and when flushed they only fly a little way and alight again. They seem to be catching grasshoppers or black crickets. The birds hover over the paddocks, then dart down and secure their prey, which they appear to eat upon the ground. On warm days the crickets

are abundant on the surface of the ground. Specimens forwarded to the S.A. Museum were identified by Mr. H. Womersley, the Entomologist, as the field cricket (*Gryllus servillei*).

**Neophema petrophila*, Rock Parrot.—This species is often seen on the rougher parts of the coastline. The birds are found in pairs or small parties, and are fairly tame, especially in the hot weather.

Letter of 16th June, 1937.

Cladorhynchus leucocephalus, Banded Stilt.—On 4th May five of these birds were found dead and two wounded beneath the telephone-wires near the Lagoon, about 150 yards from the spot where a similar disaster occurred on 7th May, 1936. The species left here on the night of 2nd June, and next morning we took eighty points of rain out of the gauge!

Grallina cyanoleuca, Magpie-Lark.—On 6th May a pair was noted flying past the homestead. The time was about 7.15 a.m., and the birds were flying from east to west. On 9th May, at about 9.30 a.m., a pair was vigorously attacking and trying to drive away a White-backed Magpie from a dead gumtree in which the latter settled later than the former.

Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae, Rainbow (Blue Mountain) Lorikeet.—The first pair of the season was seen on 1st June, and now (16/6/1937) there are plenty about.
