

BIRD NOTES**BIRD NOTES FROM NARACORTE.**

By A. R. ATTIWILL (Feb. 1946).

Owing to a particularly dry period in the early spring of 1945 and perhaps lack of suitable food, many of the insectivorous birds did not breed at their usual time, and only a few nests were seen.

However, heavy rain during October and November brought about swarms of insects, and the birds immediately started nesting in earnest and continued right into January, 1946. On December 23, while wandering along a road well lined with Red Gums, White-browed, Dusky and Masked Wood Swallows were observed in numbers, nesting on loose bark on tree trunks, horizontal forks, and tops of dead stumps. Nests contained

(Continued on Page 30)

BIRD NOTES

BIRD NOTES FROM NARACOOORTE.

(Continued from Page 21)

all stages from fresh eggs to fully fledged young.

In one large tree on the edge of the road there were the following nests:—Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), with full-grown young; Willy-Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), with small young; White-browed Wood Swallow (*Artamus superciliosus*), containing eggs; and two nests of White-winged Trillers (*Lalage tricolor*), one with eggs and one with small young. In the adjoining tree a pair of Jacky Winters (*Microeca fascians*) had a nest with two young about half-grown. All appeared to be

living in harmony with their neighbours. The main items on the menu for all species (except the Magpie-Larks) were a very small whitish moth, and young grasshoppers, both of which were very numerous in the dry grass of the paddocks nearby. Some time was spent watching the birds catching and carrying these insects to the nests.

On February 2, 1946, a pair of Willy-Wagtails was seen feeding two young, which had just left a nest in a gum sapling.

A single Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*) was seen circling overhead on February 7, 1946. This bird is rarely seen in this district.