

BIRD NOTES FROM WILMINGTON

By T. BRANDON
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Emu (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*).—At the present time Emus up to ten in number may be seen in this locality. This is apparently due to a water shortage to the north and north-west, because feed in those parts is plentiful. In normal years Emus do not come closer than 40 miles to Wilmington.

Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*).—The numbers of this species have increased of late.

Grey-backed Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—Occasionally seen.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*).—Occasionally seen at present.

Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*).—I have been informed that this species has been heard at a spot four miles from here in some thick Acacias. I have never seen the species in this district.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*).—First recorded this season on May 24, when three birds were seen two miles east of Wilmington. One bird seen on the following day at the same place.

Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*).—First recorded this season on May 25, when a bird was heard calling, at a place seven miles east of Wilmington. Also heard at the same spot on May 28. No cuckoos have been heard or seen since this time.

Raven (*Corvus coronoides*).—This species is amongst the earliest breeders in this district; recently I flushed a bird from a nest which contained two fresh eggs.

Australian Goshawk (*Astur fasciatus*).—A neighbour has recounted to me the following concerning the capture of domestic pigeons by Goshawks. Occasionally a pair of these birds make a raid on the pigeons which breed in a large hollow gum tree, usually soon after sunrise. One hawk, (?) female, appears alone, and harasses the pigeons, and when an opportunity occurs its mate appears in a flash from a higher altitude and captures a pigeon before it has time to evade its new attacker. As soon as the kill is made, the prey is transferred to the mate (while on the wing), and the pair fly off along the creek.