

By J. Sutton, Netherby.

December, 1926, January, February, 1927.

Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*)—A young bird was heard calling the "trilling whistle" from the top of a *Pinus insignis* on Fullarton Road at 9.35 p.m. on 10th December. It was again heard in the same tree about 9 p.m. on 27th December. On the later occasion a parent bird called "Mopoke" a few times, when the young one ceased calling. On the 20th a Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) was seen feeding a young one in an acacia in Urrbrae. On the 28th, hearing the Sparrows' chorus when danger is near, I went out and found the cause—a Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*), which was perched on the topmost dead limb of a peppermint gumtree.

On 4th January, 1927, a Willie Wagtail was noticed feeding two young ones in a pinetree in Urrbrae. On the 5th, two Superb Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*), with two young ones, were seen on the lawn in our garden. Each parent was attending to one young bird, and the food seemed to consist of small white moths found in the grass. A Brown Songlark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*) was heard singing near the experimental crops on Urrbrae. On the 15th, two Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) were seen to-day flying towards the foothills. On 1st February, a young bird was heard calling, and on investigation I found it was a young Crested Shrike Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*) in company with a female parent. The young one was calling repeatedly and at the same time fluttering its wings. On the 6th, they were again seen, but on this occasion the young bird in between its calls was noticed to collect food for itself. Pipit (*Anthus australis*)—On three occasions in February a Pipit was noticed on the lawn. I have never seen this species there before. They are usually in the paddocks or near the roads. On the 20th, I noticed a young White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) and a young Goldfinch—the last for this season, most probably. During February a pair of Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) have come to Netherby. Whenever they reach our part they are invariably attacked by a pair of White-backed Magpies. For a few minutes the swishing of wings and the snapping of the Magpies' beaks are clearly heard. No damage appears to have been done up to date, although the two Magpies simultaneously attack one Magpie-Lark, and the latter does not tarry here for any time.

Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*).—A bird has been heard calling about Netherby in January and February. I have heard a bird of this species calling from the Government House grounds in the city, once in January and a second time on 11th February, the day when the shade temperature reached 107.2°.

Mistletoe-Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*).—A bird was heard on 25th and 27th February. On 3rd March the bird, a male, was seen in the ripe berries on a coprosma hedge on the roadside. (On 7th March, 1924, I noted a male bird eating the ripe berries in this hedge.)

Adelaide Rosella (*Platycercus adelaidae*).—Three to four of this species have been flying about in the big gums during December, January, and February.

Noisy Miners (*Myzantha melanocephala*) have been about here for months, and during February have been taking toll from our late-fruiting peachtrees. They damage many of the fruit with their beaks, and rarely finish off one that they have attacked.

National Park, Belair.—I was there on 23rd December, 1926, with Mr. D. L. Serventy, of East Cannington, W.A. We noted 43 species and 508 individuals. The young birds noted were one Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*), two White-naped Honeyeaters (*Melithreptus lunatus*), one White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata*), three Diamond-Firetails (*Zonaeginthus guttatus*). Noticing a Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*) on a telegraph-wire at the side of the railway-line, we watched it for some minutes. Finally it flew away, and on our going over to the spot we found its burrow excavated in the side of the railway embankment. There were great numbers of Cicadas, *Psaltoda moerens* (Red-eye), in the trees, and in the Long Gully valley there were numbers of the head portions, some alive, with the bodies wanting. What was doing the damage I could not find out, as nothing seemed to be attacking those singing in the trees. At times the noise from the Red-eyes in the trees was deafening.

Kinchina.—On 11th December, 1926, amongst other species there, I noted Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*), Budgerygahs (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), White-winged Trillers (*Lalage tricolor*), Masked Wood-Swallows (*Artamus personatus*), including 10 young birds, White-browed Wood-Swallows (*Artamus superciliosus*), including four young birds, Black-capped Sittella (*Neositta pileata*). On the 18th I noted four Elegant Parrots (*Neophema elegans*), as well as

Budgerygahs, Bee-eaters, White-winged Trillers, Masked and White-browed Wood-Swallows. On 29th January, 1927, not one of the species named on 11th and 18th December was to be seen.

Nesting Notes: Kinchina, 11th and 18th December, 1926.—White-browed Wood-Swallow—Nest found on 27th November had on 11th December two young in it with a little grey down on them. On 18th the two young were still in the nest, the heads and backs showing stripes. Both parents were about. Masked Wood-Swallow (six nests)—Nest four and a half feet up in the fork of a teatree, one egg, with two holes pecked in it and many ants inside the egg. Nest in a fork of a mallee, eight feet up, two young in light grey down on 11th, which were still in the nest on 18th, but with striped feathers on them. Nest in a fork in a mallee, nine feet up, on 11th two eggs, but on 18th there was one young in down, and I could find no trace of the other egg. Nest seven feet up in a fork in a mallee, two eggs, the female flushed off the nest. I handled these eggs, and went about 35 yards away. The bird came back in a few minutes, and at once went on the eggs, and remained on whilst I watched for 15 minutes. I could not find the tree on 18th. Nest in a fork of a mallee and 15 feet up; two eggs were seen in the nest. When I came on these birds I thought they were nesting, so I went over to a fence and sat down. Three times a bird, and once the two birds, flew some 50 yards straight at me at a height of 10 feet, calling out all the time. After about 15 minutes one bird flew to the nesting-tree, and I saw the nest. I have never seen Masked Wood-Swallows fly at anyone like that before. On 18th December the nest and eggs were gone, and no birds were about. As the tree was at the side of the road, the nest may have been robbed by someone. Nest in a dodonea, three feet up, two eggs. On 18th the eggs were still in the nest, and the female flushed off. Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)—Nest found on 20th November. On 11th December two young were on the nest, and flew away with the two parent birds. As at one time there were four eggs in this nest, the fatality was 50 per cent. Budgerygah—A parent bird was seen on 11th feeding a young one, and another parent bird was noted feeding young in a hollow. White-browed Wood-Swallow—On 18th December I found a nest in the jagged break in a *Callitris* (pine) 16 feet from the ground. The male was seen to feed the young, after which the female went on the nest. On 18th I saw a parent Willie Wagtail feeding two young, a male Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*) attending to two young, and a young Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*) attended by a female

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parent. On 29th January, 1927, the only young seen were a young Red-capped Robin with a male parent and a young Hooded Robin with the two parent birds.