

Bird Notes.

By J. Sutton, Netherby.

March, April, and May.

Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*).—Last heard on 28th March. Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*).—Heard calling on 11th and 12th May. Banded plover (*Zonifer tricolor*).—At 11 p.m. on 18th April, a moonlight night, a bird was heard calling a few times. Southern Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*).—Three series of calls were heard between 5.30 and 5.50 a.m. on 17th May. Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*).—At 10 p.m. on 18th April, a moonlight night, Swans were calling as they flew overhead. Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*).—A bird was seen on 19th March. Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*).—Heard occasionally about day-break. Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*).—Frequently heard at night and before dawn, and on one occasion I heard two birds calling. Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*).—Not a day passed but small flocks of these Lorikeets flew overhead, but they did not fly towards any fixed point. Musk Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta concinna*).—Flocks, in larger numbers than the previous species, were seen twice in April and four times in May. Adelaide Rosella (*Platycercus adalaidae*) and Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*).—A few of these species have been about the district during the three months. Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*).—A pair were noted on 23rd, 26th, and 27th March. Welcome-Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—Noted a few times. Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*).—First noted at 8.50 a.m. on 7th April, and five other times in April (18, 22, 24, 26, 28), and after that on almost every day in May; I think that the birds in April were merely calling as they passed on. Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*).—First noted (a male) at 7.50 a.m. on 12th May in the front garden, but on searching an hour later it was not to be seen. A male was seen in the front garden on 24th May, and two females on the same day in a front garden 100 yards further north. As a rule, this species is not heard calling. Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*).—First noted on 22nd March, then four times in April and five times in May, 24th the latest day. This bird only gives a short call, and I have seen it twice in the front garden, but it is very wary. Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*).—One bird has been heard occasionally during the three months. Crested Shrike-Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*).—Heard calling on very few occasions. Magpie-Lark (*Grallina*

cyanoleuca).—A pair are still about the district. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*).—Noted first on 17th April, and four other times in April and six times in May. They are not stopping here, but seem to be migrating north-easterly. On 12th May I saw six birds, and on 15th May I flushed one bird out of some grapevines where there were some decaying bunches of grapes. White-fronted Chats (*Epthianura albifrons*).—A flock of seven was seen on 10th May and six on 11th May. Both were passing overhead, south-westerly, at about a height of 100 feet. Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*).—A small flock has been seen on six occasions in an open paddock, but near the road. Superb Blue-Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*).—A family of three, with the male in brown plumage, has been noted on many days. Mistletoe-Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*).—Was noted on 16th and 19th March. Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*).—Heard on 30th April. A visitor from the hills after some rain had fallen. White-naped Honeyeater (*Melithreptus lunatus*).—Noted first on 11th March, then on 22nd and 28th March and during most of April and May. Black-chinned Honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*).—A small flock has been about during the three months, and as usual only one bird seems to call either when flying or working in the trees. Eastern Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*).—A bird heard on April 18, 21, 24, 28, and May 4. Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*).—Birds of this species come regularly every day to eat the scraps of bread which I moisten and place in the birds' food-tray in the yard. Usually there are about six to eight constant attendants, but in the forenoon of Sunday, 3rd May, no less than 16 Noisy Miners came. There was not sufficient room on the tray for the whole lot at once, so some of them alighted on a small wattle-tree or the grapevines to await their turn at the food. I have noticed that whenever a Noisy Miner utters the warning call, whether the caller is near or far away, the birds feeding fly away on the sound of the first note of that call, without looking around, in whatever direction their head is pointed. They stay away for a minute or so, and on finding all is well they return to the food. Whenever a cat appears in the yard and the Noisy Miners are present, they will call continuously and will not approach the food-tray until the cat has gone. Little Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*).—A bird was heard calling on 28th March, 5th and 8th April, and 8th May. Evidently these birds were passing through the district. Red Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).—One or two birds call every day. Our permanent residents are Willie-Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga*

penicillata), Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*), and the White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*). Two other temporary residents are the Grey-backed Silver-eye (*Zosterops halmaturina*) and the Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*).

Adelaide.

Magpie (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—On the 22nd April, near the S.A. Museum, Dr. Morgan and I saw a flock of 21 Magpie-Larks flying over the city in a south-easterly direction. The flock was spread out greatly, and some of the birds alighted on the roof of one of the high buildings in Rundle Street.

Kinchina.

The mallee has been very dry during March, April, and May. Scarcely any mallee trees or shrubs have been in flower, so that the Honeyeaters have been scarce. The Purple-gaped (*Meliphaga cratitia*), however, has been in fair numbers out in the more open parts, and not shy. It is only occasionally this happens, as usually they are in the densest portions of the mallee, have one look at the intruder, and then fly away. The Red-backed Parrots (*Psephofus haematonotus*) have been in numbers. On one occasion I counted 137. They are usually found feeding in the stubble paddocks, and generally roost in the native pine-trees (*Callitris*). Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*).—There are a few of these about, but they are not singing. The males I have seen are not in full plumage. White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*).—A party of six were seen on 9th April feeding in the grass near some native pines. They allowed me to approach them very closely. When they flew into the pines I got beneath the trees and obtained good views. I noticed that their flight action is similar to that of the Crested Pigeon: they give a few wing beats, then soar for some yards, then a few more wing beats, more soaring, and continue on in that way. Black-fronted Dotterel (*Charadrius melanops*).—One bird of this species was first seen at Kinchina on 7th May; on the 21st there were four birds. In the creekbed there is in one place a spring, from which the water runs for half a mile. The water is so salt that sheep will not drink it. At one time the farmer tells me the water was fresh, but after a flood had swept over the spring a few years ago the water has been salty. On many occasions I have seen our native birds drinking and bathing in the water. The Dotterels appeared to be getting plenty of food there. These birds bring the total of the species I have seen at Kinchina since 5th June, 1922, to 98. Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*).—These birds were seen for the first time

this year on 14th May, three, a male and two females, being observed near the old butts of the Murray Bridge Rifle Club. A male and female were seen there on 21st May. When these butts were in use the Flame Robins were to be seen about the knoll on which the targets were placed on several Saturdays in June whilst shooting was taking place. On 14th May there were immense numbers of insects, presumably ants, flying about, and Willie-Wagtails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Jacky Winters (*Microeca fascinans*), and Hooded Robins (*Melanodryas cucullata*) were feeding on them. I also saw the Flame Robins and Pipits (*Anthus australis*) catching the insects in the air.

Additions to the S.A. Museum Collection.

Numenius cyanopus (Curlew).—A specimen was obtained at Loveday Bay, Lake Alexandrina, on 6th March, 1927. ♀, iris dark brown; legs and feet grey; bill, upper mandible vandyke brown, lower mandible, basal half reddish brown, distal half vandyke brown; length of bill 7 in.; wing $12\frac{1}{2}$ in.; spread 3 feet 7 3-8 in.; weight 2 lb. 13 oz. The bird was replete with fat and the stomach was empty, the bird being shot shortly after 8 a.m.

Neophema elegans (Elegant Parrot).—♂, from Keith, 30th April, 1927. It was in full plumage, and the patch of blue behind the eye is larger than that on any of the specimens already in the Museum.

Puffinus tenuirostris (Short-tailed Shearwater or Mutton-Bird).—Six specimens, four males and two females, all juv., were found on Brighton Beach on 2nd May, 1927, washed up, dead. The nearest known breeding-place is the Althorpe Islands, off Cape Spencer, the southern "toe" of Yorke's Peninsula, which is 95 miles in a direct line west-south-west of Brighton Beach. The young birds were in good condition and contained a fair amount of fat.