

Birds in a North Adelaide Garden.

BY A. M. MORGAN.

The following birds have visited my garden in Stanley Street, North Adelaide, during the past two and a half years:

Ducorpsius gymnopsis (Bare-eyed Cockatoo)—Evidently an escaped cage bird. It stayed a day or two, destroyed a rose bush, and was banished.

Dacelo gigas (Laughing Jackass)—A bird found sitting on the back rail of a chair in the nursery, having made an entrance down the chimney.

Pseudartamus cyanopterus (Dusky Wood-Swallow)—Often seen flying over; occasionally perch for a while.

Petroica multicolor frontalis (Scarlet-breasted Robin)—Comes early in the winter and leaves in early spring.

Leucocirca tricolor (The Black-and-white Fantail or Wag-tail)—Frequent visitors throughout the year.

Rhipideira flabellifera whitei (White Shafted Fantail)—An occasional bird seen towards the end of summer; does not stay long.

Hirundo neoxena (Welcome Swallow)—Always a few hawking for insects over the garden. They do not all leave in the winter.

Hylochelidon nigricans caleyi (Tree Martin)—Always present. There is nesting place under the roof of my neighbour's house, and opposite my dressing room window. This is occupied by several pairs of birds, and they may be seen going in and out at all times of the year.

Pachycephiala rufiventris inornatus (Red-breasted Thick-head)—On two occasions a female of this species has visited the garden in the winter.

Malurus cyaneus leggei (Blue Wren)—Two pairs are constant residents, and breed annually. Each pair has its own end of the garden, and when the males meet they fight vigorously. One male has daily battles with his reflection in the dining room window.

Austrodiceaum hirundinaceum (Swallow Diceaum)—Sometimes a single bird settles for a time in a pomegranate tree.

Zosterops lateralis westernensis (The Silver Eye)—Always present in numbers. They eat fruit in the season, and at other times small insects, especially rose aphids. Bred once in a quince tree.

Ptilotula penicillata whitei (White-plumed Honey-eater or greenie)—Always a bird or two present.

Meliornis novea-hollandiae subassimilis (White-bearded Honey-eater)—Generally present. They come in numbers when the *Mina lobata* is in flower.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris loftyi (Spinebill)—Come in fair numbers towards the end of summer, and leave in the early autumn. They are very fond of the red salvia flowers.

Grallina cyanolenea (the Magpie Lark)—Many in the neighbourhood. One alighted in a plum tree.

ACCLIMATISED BIRDS.

Passer domesticus (the House Sparrow)—Always present in numbers. They eat large numbers of caterpillars, aphids, and other insects, and on the whole do more good than harm.

Carduelis elegans (the Goldfinch)—Always present; very fond of sunflower and cosmos seed. They breed in the fruit trees.

Sturnus vulgaris (the Starling)—Always present. They feed on worms, caterpillars and insects in the winter; mostly fruit in the summer.

Merula merula (Blackbird)—Always present. They breed in a trellised vine. They are an unmitigated nuisance in the garden from their habit of scratching newly planted ground.

The names are taken from G. M. Mathews's List of Birds of Australia, except that trinomials are not used for dominant species.