

Birds observed in our Garden at Kingswood.

FROM F. R. ZIETZ.

During the past week a small flock of Waxbills or Red eye-browed Finches (*Aegintha temporalis loftyi*) paid us several visits. In the early days of this State these birds were plentiful on the Adelaide plains, but since the land has been cleared and built upon they have retreated to the moist gullies of the Mount Lofty Ranges, where they seek shelter in the braken fern and dense shrubs. Their appearance is probably due to the dryness of the season. The Southern Black-headed Minahs (*Myzantha melanocephala whitei*) are again in evidence, and fre-

quently visit the almond blossoms in search of nectar. The White-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*) are pairing. During the winter they congregate in large flocks; 26 were seen on about a quarter of an acre of newly ploughed ground in our neighbourhood. Small companies of Silver-eyes (*Zosterops lateralis westernensis*) are often seen busy amongst the shrubs in search of caterpillars and aphides. Although they damage soft fruit they do a great deal of good in destroying insect pests, especially when rearing their broods. Their nests are often built amongst the lower branches of the almond trees. They also eat the berries of the Pepper tree (*Shinus molle*), the seeds of which are often found adhering to the water taps where these birds come to drink.

A pair of Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus leggei*) have built their nest in the Kaffir Apple hedge about 3 feet 6 inches from the ground. It took them about a week to build, and they have now commenced to line it with feathers.

Flame-breasted or White-fronted Robins (*Littleria chrysop-
tera phœnicea*) have not been seen since the 9th August; they have evidently left us for their breeding grounds.
