

Some Mallee Birds.

By J. M. Bonnin.

From 26th May to 10th June, 1930, I spent a holiday in the mallee on a farm eight miles south of Pinnaroo, and three miles north of the uncleared scrub of the "Ninety-mile Desert." There were more species of birds about the farm than in the more settled areas. Amongst the commonest birds in the locality were the Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*), Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*), White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*), White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*), Pipit (*Anthus australis*), Grey Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*), Crow (*Corvus* sp.), White-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*), and Black-backed Magpies (*G. tibicen*). I noticed three Wedge-tailed Eagles (*Uroaetus audax*), and a few days previously three were shot in a paddock

containing lambing ewes. Two out of four Bustards (*Eupodotis australis*) were also shot before my arrival. This is the first occasion that the latter species have been seen here for many years. Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) are common in the district, but I did not see any. I saw about twelve Ringneck Parrots (*Barnardius barnardi*), a few Mulga-Parrots (*Psephotus varius*), and several flocks of one of the small Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta* sp.), but the commonest Parrot was the Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*). I saw one flock of the last named numbering 100, and odd pairs were in the belts of scrub on all the roads about the farm. Emus (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) are fairly common further south, and at the end of last year 14 were counted around a wheatstack. I saw a few of the following:—Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*), Swallows sp., Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*), Pardalote sp. Yellow-tailed Thornbills (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) were very common. Honeyeaters were represented by Brown-headed (*Melithreptus brevirostris*), White-eared (*Meliphaga leucotis*), and Spiny-cheeked (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*). Yellow-throated Miners (*Myzantha flavigula*) and Red Wattle-Birds (*Anthochaera carunculata*) were also present. A relatively large number of birds are caught in rabbit-traps in this district, and I expect in all the other mallee country. During six weeks' trapping with 20 traps four Magpies, two Grey Shrike-Thrushes, and six White-browed Babblers were caught. During the same period in 1929 at this place I saw, in addition, Stubble-Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*), Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*), Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*) (?), Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*), and Black-winged Currawong (*Strepera melanoptera*).
