

### Bird Notes.

By L. Reese, "Minnie Downs," via Marree.

Under date of 7th November, 1930:—"On 2nd October Messrs. L. Crabb and J. Button flushed a Flock-Pigeon (*Histriophaps histrionica*) from its nest and found one egg; six yards away another nest was seen, with one egg in it. Six miles from there a bird was flushed from a nest which contained two eggs. No eggs were taken. These nests were in the flooded country about 29 miles east of Goyder's Lagoon, close to Monument Tree. I reached 'Pandie' on 31st October, and saw the first of the Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*). They usually return early in October, so I am surprised I did not see any along the track from Marree. Owing to the rain we were two days late getting here. About two and a half inches of rain fell during my absence, and that should enable the gibber and sandhill

*Bird Notes.*

birds to return. Budgerygahs (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) are now in flocks of hundreds. I noted a pair of Crested Bronzings (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) at a nest in a tree at Pandie homestead. From a nest in that tree last year one of this species brought out four clutches. Fairy Martins (*Hylochelidon ariel*), after two attempts to build on the underside of trees, are now constructing nests under an iron-roofed shed. The rain destroyed the nests they were building under the leaning trees."

Under date of 5th February, 1931:—"I saw three flocks of Flock-Pigeons with about twenty birds in each, and some twenty miles separated each flock. I also saw a few pairs and quite a number of single birds. Owing to the abundance of food about I would not be surprised if they stayed in this district for a year or two. A few Flood-Birds (Channel-billed Cuckoos, *Scythrops novae-hollandiae*) were here in December and January, but I think they have gone northwards, as I have not heard any for some time."

Under date of 20th April, 1931:—"Lake Goolangirie contains an island which is nested upon by wading birds; in particular Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) are packed upon it like sardines. I have seen about a thousand Flock-Pigeons on 'Clifton Hills,' including Goyder's Lagoon. Every time I take a trip from home I see more of those birds than on the previous journey. I have heard of the Flock-Pigeons nesting in thousands at Alroy, N.T. The Diamantina River is running in the main channel as far as Goyder's Lagoon. The Lagoon country pulls up most floods, only one in five flowing past. Unless there have been heavy rains at Kynooona and Winton, Q., the flood is not a big one. I don't know whether Cooper's Creek is still running, but the last time it flowed beyond Innamincka it never went past Lake Goolangirie. I am enclosing a feather I saw fall out of a bird in a flock of twenty. I think they were Major Mitchells (*Kakatoe leadbeateri*). If they were those birds, it was the second time I have seen the species on the Cooper. They were at Cuttapirie old station." [The feather was identified by Dr. Morgan as one from an immature "Major Mitchell" Cockatoo.]