
*SIMPSON—Birds in the Oodnadatta District.***Birds in the Oodnadatta District.**

(By H. Simpson, Oodnadatta, 9th August, 1931.)

Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*).—Are plentiful. I saw a flock of twenty feeding amongst the dry grass in the creek last week.

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—Flying around in fair numbers.

Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*).—Are often seen on the waterholes well away from the town. I saw a pair on 6th instant.

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksi*).—One is flying about the town at present.

Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*).—Noticed a flock of about 100 on 6th instant. Several hollows in trees in the creek contain eggs. First egg was found on 12th July.

Cockatoo Parrot (*Leptolophus hollandicus*).—A stray pair was seen a few weeks ago. Several people in the town have these birds in captivity; they were obtained during the nesting season last year.

Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*).—Only an odd pair or two seen. They were very scarce this year.

Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*).—Several pairs were noticed last month, but no nests were located.

Budgerygah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).—In large flocks. Many seen coming out of hollows during the last month or so.

Owlet Nightjar (*Aegotheles cristata*).—One was discovered in a hollow stump, was caught and released. Two Miners chased the bird until it took refuge in another hollow.

Bee-Eater (*Merops ornatus*).—Six birds were noticed at a waterhole catching insects on the wing.

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).—One or two were seen on various occasions.

Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*).—A pair was noticed last month. This species is very rare about here.

Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—A pair of these birds can be found at most of the waterholes. A pair have nested every year in a gumtree in the town.

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Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*).—Common. A neatly made nest in a bushy gidya, ready for eggs, was found a fortnight ago.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*).—One was flying about the town for a few days and roosting in the trees.

White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*).—Often heard singing in the gumtrees in the creek, but not often seen.

Babbler (*Pomatostomus* sp.).—Several flocks of these birds were seen. A nest was found containing four eggs and a chick just hatched.

Wood Swallow (*Artamus* sp.).—Numerous about the place.

White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata leilavalensis*).—Numerous around the town and in the creeks. A bird came into the house and picked crumbs off the table.

Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*).—Common. A nest containing 4 eggs was found on 6th instant.

Red Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).—Noticed occasionally, but not in numbers.

Chestnut-eared Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).—In swarms, especially around water. In nearly every needle-bush and honeysuckle their nests are noticeable at present, some containing eggs.

Crow (*Corvus* sp.).—Are numerous, scavenging around the town from daylight to dark.

White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Not common. One or two noticed during an afternoon's walk.

Hawks and ground birds seem to have disappeared altogether. I have walked miles over saltbush plains without flushing a ground bird of any species.

A pure white heron or crane flew away from a creek containing water as I approached on 8th instant. It flapped lazily away to another creek with water before I could get a good look at it. [Probably a White Egret (*Egretta alba*).—Editors.]

Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) have found their way north as far as William Creek, 566 miles from Adelaide. They have been there for years, but never seem to get any further north.