

*Bird Notes.*

By Edwin Ashby.

The Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*).—In the afternoon of 8th June, 1933, a water bird was noticed on the Wittunga reservoir at Blackwood, and I went down to ascertain what it was first thing the following day. It was greedily feeding amongst the partially-submerged weeds on the south side, and was obviously a Grebe. I managed to get within a few yards of it without being seen by the bird. I took mental note of its markings, and went up to the house to compare with my skins of the Great Crested Grebe. Neither the crest nor neck-frill was present, and it differed from the adult skins in having a pale chestnut patch on the cheeks and a large patch of the same colour on the flank and side. I concluded it must be in immature (non-breeding) plumage. On turning up both Mathews and North, I found that the chestnut colouration is not mentioned at all by either, and Mathews states that Australian ornithologists do not seem to have observed the juvenile plumage. Unfortunately, I had no opportunity of again observing it. It remained all day on the 9th, but was much disturbed, owing to carting being done alongside the reservoir, and, I think, hid itself amongst some bulrushes growing in the water. It was gone on the 11th June.

Grey Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—A bird was seen and heard calling for some time at Blackwood on 3rd May, 1933—the first occasion for over 20 years. Another bird of this species was seen on the Victor Harbour side of Mount Compass on 5th May, 1933.

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