

---

*Bird Notes.*

By J. Sutton.

*Himantopus leucocephalus*,—White-headed Stilt.—A nest was found by Mr. J. Neil McGilp at the Camden Swamp on 29th October, 1933, containing three eggs. It was well hidden in a clump of *Cotula coronopifolia* in flower. On 5th November the nest was empty, but two feet seven inches away were three eggs in a form with no nesting material beside a miniature samphire. The mud in the form was quite soft, and most probably was wet at the time of using. There were no human tracks about the place, so presumably the birds made the transfer!

*Falco cenchroides*, Nankeen Kestrel.—A pure albino bird was seen hovering and flying about the Camden Swamp on 12th November, 1933. Some Silver Gulls (*Larus novae-hollandiae*) attacked it on two occasions.

*Ocyphaps lophotes*, Crested Pigeon.—Hearing that two "Top-knot Pigeons" had been captured at Mitcham, I went to see them, and found the birds belonged to this species. They were in good condition, but whether they were wild birds or escapees from captivity I could not say. I have never seen this species at Mitcham. The call is "whoop," but the wings cause a metallic noise on the bird flapping them when flying.

*Capella hardwicki*, Australian Snipe.—A specimen was sent to the S.A. Museum by Dr. C. H. Souter from Yankalilla on 25th October, 1933. It had been brought into the house at 9 a.m. by a cat, which had seized it on the left side of the neck. There was much blood on the neck and breast, and Dr. Souter traced

*Bird Notes.*

back the blood stains to the spot where the bird was captured—near some rushes in a creeklet. ♂; iris, brownish; bill, dark slate; base of lower mandible, brownish; legs and feet, greyish-olive; inside mouth, slate; total length, 31.2 cm.; span of wings, 52.8 cm.; weight, 114 grammes; length of bill, 6.5 cm. Another specimen was sent in by Mr. E. A. Brooks, of "Buckland Park," Two Wells. This bird was secured on 12th November, 1933. ♀; total length, 31.5 cm.; span of wings, 49 cm.; weight, 151 grammes; length of bill, 7 cm. About twelve of these Snipe were seen on that date, as well as some Eastern Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominicus*).

On 5th November, 1933, Mr. J. Neil McGill and I flushed four of this species on the Camden Swamp. On 12th November Mr. McGill flushed one bird at the same swamp.

I am indebted to the Rev. P. P. Darke, The Rectory, Peterborough, for the following item:—On 11th October, 1933, a bird was captured by Mr. Reed at the railway dam at Mannahill, which station is on the Peterborough to Broken Hill, N.S.W., railway line, and is situated 192 miles in a direct line north-east of Adelaide. There is at the dam a small patch of lucerne enclosed in wire netting. The bird was in that lucerne, and before it could get a proper flight it was captured, put into a bag, and brought to Mr. Darke. The bag was opened in a room, and the bird walked fearlessly out, was picked up by hand, and a small movie-picture taken. The bird was replaced in the bag, taken back to the dam, and released. When the bag was tipped up carefully the Snipe walked out, looked about as if to get its bearings, and then flew off due south. The bird had been seen in the lucerne patch for a day or so before its capture. Mr. Darke identified the bird from the specimens in the S.A. Museum, and in addition had one of the feathers with the rufous band from its tail.

It is difficult to obtain information as to the spread of this species in South Australia, but I should think the greatest numbers would be found in our South-Eastern country, judging from the following paragraph in the Melbourne "Australasian" of 1st November, 1930:—"Jacksnipe scarce. Field shooters have been having a lean time recently, owing to the scarcity of all kinds of game. The only winged game available at present is Jacksnipe, and not easy to obtain. Shooters have to travel long distances to find birds, and the small numbers then met with do not compensate for the expense and trouble. It has been reported that several Melbourne sportsmen, including

---

*Bird Notes.*

Mr. Bernard Nolan, had excellent shooting at Millicent, South Australia, a few day ago, when they bagged 412 birds . . .”

This species has been recorded from North-western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, twice in New Zealand, and once at Lord Howe Island. It is said to reach Australia about September, and to leave for its breeding grounds by March. The first records of the nests being found and eggs taken were in April and May, 1897, on the slopes of “Fujiyama,” Hondo, Japan, at about 2,000/3,000 feet above sea level. “The Hand-List of Japanese Birds,” 1932, calls it Latham’s Snipe, and states that it has been obtained from Kuriles, Hokkaido (B.), Hondo (B.), Seven Islands of Izu (Hachijo), Shikoku, Kiusiu, Formosa (B, signifies breeding). The common name amongst field shooters in Australia seems to be Jack Snipe, but the true Jack Snipe (*Limnocryptes minima*) has not yet been recorded from Australia. Snipe are protected in all parts of this State from 1st March to 30th September!! During most of this period the birds are not in South Australia.