

a bluish cere; gape, light green; iris, hazel; the position of the "black shoulder" in the adult was marked in the chick as a bare patch of skin coloured dark blue. One of the chicks was much smaller than its nest-mates. When the nest was approached an adult bird flew from the topmost branches of the tree with a mouse in its bill. We were attracted to the tree by a high-pitched squeaking note, which is uttered by the adult bird. The chicks give a deeper clucking squeal. I had climbed to within ten feet of the nest when an adult flew off, and as I had not seen it, I was startled. Whilst I was at the nest one of the adults swooped down over the head of my friend who was standing near the tree. The bird passed about a foot over his head, but close enough to make him duck and put up his arm to shield himself from an expected blow.

On 8th August, 1936, two more nests of this species were found in gumtrees at the Sewage Farm, and each of these belonged to the same pair of Kites that had the above-mentioned nest on 26th April: These two later nests were about 200 yards away from the first-mentioned nest. One nest, placed fifty feet up on a very thin branch, contained two young which were able to fly—the young were quite different from the parent birds, having a mottled light rust-coloured back; they also had a tinge of rust-colour under the chin which spread around and formed a half-collar; the crown was buff. The other nest was about 100 yards away from this one, and was built some thirty feet from the ground. It was about the size of a Magpie's nest, but shallower; the inside was lined with green gum-leaves; there was one egg\*. To have nested at these times seems to indicate that the parent birds built again as soon as the batch of young from the previous nest could fly.

Since May, 1934, this pair of birds has hatched thirteen young, nine of which reached maturity and four were shot by some lads as "pigeon-hawks"; besides these hatchings three fresh eggs were taken on 7th July, 1934. I have no doubt but that the same pair of birds reared the lot, and that even more young than were recorded were reared during that time.

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\* On 16th August, 1936, this nest contained two eggs; and four eggs on the 23rd August.

## A Trip to Mannum, and other Notes.

By R. F. Brown.

We left Prospect at 11.30 a.m. on 11th April, 1936, for Mannum, via the Torrens Gorge and Palmer, and arrived at the River Murray at 6 p.m. The 12th was spent at Mannum and at a nearby patch of mallee scrub two miles to the east of the town. We returned home on the 13th, leaving Mannum at 8.30 a.m. and arriving at Prospect at 4 p.m. The figures in parentheses after the names of the birds indicate the number seen. Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*) (1).—This bird was in some thick lignum in a partly dried-up swamp. Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*) (3).—A nest with a fledged young bird in it was built on top of an old nest of a White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*), fifteen feet from the ground. The sitting bird flushed only when the tree was climbed, and as it flew away the young bird fluttered down to the ground. Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) (2). Eastern Swamphen (*Porphyrio melanotus*) (127).—125 of these were seen feeding at dusk in the bird sanctuary. Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax ater*) (5).—Were seen flying up river in the early morning. Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*) (260 approximately).—I estimated the number of these birds roosting on a large willow-tree to be 250. Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) (47).—These flew up the river in the early morning. Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*) (12). Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) (20 approximately). Black-fronted Dotterel (*Charadrius melanops*) (3). White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) (6).—Egret (*Egretta* sp.) (31). White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*) (59). Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) (60).—These were in the bird sanctuary and were very tame. They could be approached to within ten yards. Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*) (1). Whistling Eagle (*Habiastris sphenurus*) (2). Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*) (1). Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) (2).—These were heard at night. One Owl had a much deeper note than the other. Ringneck Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*) (7). Red-backed Parrot (*Psephotus haematotus*) (3).—These flew out of a gumtree and stood in the shallow water of the River Murray to drink. Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*) (3).—Two were males. Parrot sp. (5). Owllet Nightjar (*Aegotheles cristata*) (1).—This bird flew out of a hollow spout about fifteen feet up in a mallee, and went straight to another spout in a tree about thirty feet away.

I flushed it three or four times and each time it went into a different hollow, but returned at last to the first spout. It was only after I flushed the bird again from the first spout that it alighted on a branch of a tree and allowed me to obtain a good view of it. Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) (3). Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) (3). Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) (4). Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*) (2).—One male. Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) (2). Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) (3). White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*) (14). White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*) (2). Eastern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) (11). Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*) (3). Little Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*) (1). Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) (2). Diamond-Firetail (*Zonaeginthus guttatus*) (2). *Corvus* sp. (3).—With brown irides. White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) (5).

The following birds were seen while going to and from Mannum:—Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*) (1) at South Petherton; Crested Pigeon (5) near Mannum; Whistling Eagle (1) in the Torrens Gorge; Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) (1) at Palmer; Hawk unidentified (1) at Palmer; Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*) (4) in the Torrens Gorge; Little Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*) (3) at Gumeracha, identification sure; Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) (2) at South Petherton; Adelaide Rosella (*Platycercus adelaidae*) (39); Ringneck Parrot (2) near Mannum; Red-backed Parrot (4) at Birdwood; Laughing Kookaburra (5); Welcome Swallow (11); Willie Wagtail (12); Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascinans*) (1) at Birdwood; Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*) (3) in the Torrens Gorge; Grey Shrike-Thrush (2); White-browed Babbler (2); Superb Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) (10); Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*) (1) at Palmer; White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata*); Noisy Miner (7); *Corvus* sp. (8) at Palmer and Birdwood; White-backed Magpie (63).

At Dry Creek on 2nd August, 1936, an Australian Crow's (*Corvus ceciliae*) nest contained three young, one of which could fly. The nest was built of mangrove sticks, which must have been brought from the coast, about a mile away, and was lined with reddish bark and hemp. It was placed thirty-five feet up in a sheoak tree (*Casuarina*). A young bird which

fluttered down when the tree was climbed could not raise itself from the ground, but when I returned the following day all three birds could fly perfectly. A peculiar thing I noticed was that the down on the youngster's back was white, whereas other birds of this species that I have kept in captivity had dusky down until they moulted.

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Brown Bittern, *Botaurus poiciloptilus*.—Whilst returning from Port Gawler on 1st June, 1936, I found, near Bolivar, a body of a bird of this species lying by the side of the main road to Adelaide on top of a pile of reeds that had been raked from a creeklet. The bird had been dead for a considerable time and was taken to the South Australian Museum, where my identification was confirmed.

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At the Sewage Farm, Islington, the following birds were seen on 8th August, 1936:—Silver Gull (about 70); Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*) (6) breeding, some "stooped" at me; White-faced Heron (34); Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) (2); Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) (6); Adelaide Rosella (*Platycercus adalaidae*) (4); Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) (1); Welcome Swallow (10); Willie Wagtail (10); Magpie-Lark (14), two birds were building a nest forty feet up in a gumtree, only thirty yards from the nest containing young of the Black-shouldered Kite; White-fronted Chat (10); Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*), no bird was seen, but a nest in course of construction was found; Superb Blue Wren (2); White-plumed Honeyeater (22), two nests being built were found; White-backed Magpie, four nests were found, one with a sitting bird and two ready for eggs.

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Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus axillaris*.

At the Sewage Farm a nest of this species was found on 26th April, 1936, built on a horizontal fork of a gumtree about twenty-five feet from the ground. It was about the size of a White-backed Magpie's (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) nest, but was if anything a little wider and not so deep. It was built of dry sticks, lined with finer sticks and with an inner lining of gum leaves. There were four young about a week old, clothed in a peculiar shade of fur-like down, which I can best describe as a brownish-pink; legs and feet, flesh colour; bill, black with