

Further Notes on the Birds of the Wilmington District.

By T. Brandon.

Chenonetta jubata, Maned Goose.—22/11/1936.—Three pairs of Maned Geese nested here this season, as they have been seen on dams with their goslings. Two lots were of twelve each, but I don't know how many there were in the other clutch. This is the first time I have known the species to nest here in three years.

Querquedula castanea, Chestnut Teal.—I have only seen one pair of Chestnut Teal here, and that was with a flock of about 50 Grey Teal (*Q. gibberifrons*), three years ago. I had a good look at them, as I crept up behind the bank of the dam with a telescope.

Circus assimilis, Spotted Harrier.—I first saw this species here this season on 27th September, 1936, and then only one bird, which was just starting to build. Three eggs were in the nest on 23rd October. I have seen several more of these birds in different parts of the district since, and noted three other nests; altogether several birds were reared around here. A single bird was observed flying low over stubble on 13th January, 1937, and another on 9th February.

Astur fasciatus, Australian Goshawk.—One bird was about the house from 5.30 to 8.30 a.m. from 2nd to 5th January. It seemed to worry the fowls for a while, and then sat quietly in a redgum, or on a post near the hedge, and watched the Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), which congregate there for protection, and which kept up a constant chattering—only one Sparrow was caught. The Magpies also showed great concern whilst the Goshawk was about. On 22nd January a bird settled in a gumtree at the house after being hotly pursued by several Magpies and Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*). This species was also seen on 15th January and 2nd February.

Falco longipennis, Little Falcon.—On 24th November, 1936, three chicks about a week old were in a nest in a large redgum. The parents showed little resentment at the nest being approached which, in my experience, is unusual for this species. On 7th January, 1937, a bird was seen to fly very fast up to a boxthorn hedge, no doubt to frighten Sparrows out, as a flock was sheltering there, but they did not venture out until the Falcon left. On 28th January a bird was seen sitting on a

fence-post eating a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). When it was disturbed the Falcon flew away with the Starling in its talons. On 3rd February a bird was seen carrying a Starling. On five other occasions Little Falcons were noted.

Falco subniger, Black Falcon.—On 24th November, 1936, two birds were seen at dusk flying north fairly high along the Willochra Creek. For a while they flew among a flock of Galahs, and they seemed to be enjoying the fun, as a Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*) does. This is the first time I have seen the Black Falcon in this locality for several years. On 28th November a bird was seen flying high over a wheat paddock, accompanied for a little while by a Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*).

Leptolophus hollandicus, Cockatiel.—16th January, 1937.—Several small flocks have been seen about lately. The first time these birds have been about since 1931.

Melopsittacus undulatus, Budgerygah.—16th January, 1937.—A few flocks of 10-15 of these birds were to be seen about fairly often then—the first time since 1931, when they were in thousands.

Epthianura albifrons, White-fronted Chat; *E. tricolor*, Crimson Chat; and *E. aurifrons*, Orange Chat.—The Orange Chats were here in large numbers this season, in company with the Crimson and White-fronted. It is five years since the Orange Chats nested here, but dozens of them bred here during October. The other two species are to be found breeding here almost every season.

Gliciphila albifrons, White-fronted Honeyeater.—10th January, 1937.—Several birds appeared here recently. This is the first time I have noted the species in the district. They are the earliest birds to stir in the morning and have rather a peculiar call whistle, which is a sharp "tang". This call was not used until the birds had been about for a fortnight or so. They were still here on 18th February.

Mirafra javanica, Horsfield Bushlark.—On 4th January, 1937, a bird was caught. It was sitting on a stone out in stubble when I first saw it, and it looked very sick. A bird was heard singing on the nights of 18th, 20th, and 21st December, 1936, about 10 p.m., and I thought it sounded like the Bushlark; but I wondered what it was doing here. This was the first time this species was seen or heard in the district.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca, White-backed Magpie.—6th December, 1936.—Two young left a nest for the first time to-day. This is the latest that I have seen them breeding. The first attempt at breeding in August finished in the nest being blown out of the tree during a storm.
