

By N. Hiles Pearse, The Gums Station, Florieton.

13th April, 1937.—A pair of Yellow-winged Honeyeaters (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*) have appeared in the flower garden for the first time. Three Maned Geese (*Chenonetta jubata*) settled on the rim of a large squatter's tank twenty yards from the house recently. They were there early in the morning, and again in the afternoon. They seemed to be young birds, as they were very dark. The lagoons north of here which were filled by the rains early in the year are black with wild-fowl—Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*), Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*), White-eyed Duck (*Nyroca australis*) and the lesser-known ones here—Chestnut Teal (*Querquedula castanea*), Blue-winged Shoveler (*Spatula rhynchotis*), Freckled Duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*), Blue-billed Duck (*Oxyura australis*), Mountain Duck (*Casarca tadornoides*), and Maned Geese.

23rd April, 1937.—Our garden is a mass of flowers just at present, and consequently it is just a welter of bird music in the early morning. The following birds are with us all the time:—Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*), Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*), Purple-backed Wren (*Malurus assimilis*), Yellow-tailed Pardalote (*Pardalotus xanthopygus*), Yellow-winged Honeyeater, Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*), Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*), White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) and Black-backed Magpie (*G. tibicen*).

We have a stock water-trough just on the edge of the scrub below the house, and one can sit on the south verandah and watch numbers of birds coming to water.

The Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) still do their early morning antics on the aerial antennae. I fear that it will break at times. They slide down the guy wires, holding by beak and feet. After doing their "daily dozen" they fly further north to where the star-thistles seed, returning to the gums for the night. A morning or so ago I saw a flock of sixty or more Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) settle on the boxthorn hedge on the west of the house; the effect was hard to describe; when disturbed they flew to a high fence a few yards away, where they lined the top-railing, bowing and cooing to each other. A Grey Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*) got into our skin-house to-day through an opening in the netting. I let him out and he flew on to a pepper-tree close handy, not at all worried. Though I have seen this species kill a Sparrow, a couple of Willie Wag-

tails were tormenting this particular bird a few mornings ago quite fearlessly. I saw a couple of Laughing Jacks (*Dacelo gigas*) perched on the wireless poles one morning, just like two mascots. The children have a Black-backed Magpie as a pet. It wanders away in the daytime and returns at night. It is very sagacious.

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