

Bird Notes.

Birds noted in a garden on Montefiore Hill, adjacent to the Parklands, North Adelaide.

By H. H. Finlayson. 21/9/1937.

Early in July several pairs of Eastern Spinebills (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) were noted obtaining nectar or insects in salvia bushes in company with the White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata*). The Spinebill is rarely seen here. They remained two or three days only.

During the second week in August a pair of Crested Shrike-Tits (*Falcunculus frontatus*) was noted in a bare quince tree, probing under the bark of a dead limb. The male called repeatedly while under observation. They were seen but once, but the call was heard during two or three days. A male again observed on September 24. Have not noted this species here for three years. About the same time two pairs of Grey Shrike-Thrushes (*Colluricincla harmonica*) were heard calling, and one pair has persisted here till the present time. The male is frequently seen in a bare *Robinia* tree, where he remains motionless for long periods. Latterly they have favoured a *Sterculia* in heavy foliage. In the late afternoon the male bird gives a plain signal call of one note, which echoes through the rooms

with extraordinary volume and clarity. I cannot see the nest yet.

Heard the Red Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*) frequently in adjoining paddocks since autumn, but did not see the birds at close quarters till a month ago, when a pair spent an hour or more courting among the bare Vines on a warm sunny afternoon, quite indifferent to human presence within six feet. The male I have noted since exploring a mass of dead Honey-suckle within three feet of the ground.

30th August.—A Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) was seen in a bare Figtree on a sunny afternoon. Observed it in the open within ten feet for ten minutes or more. Heard calling for a week after this, but not seen again.

13th September.—Saw the first Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) though its call had been noted a day or so after the Fan-tailed, and has in fact been the dominant bird sound ever since. The call is almost incessant and there are evidently many birds about. At 5.30 p.m. on 15th September in the Park near by I noted a Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) dislodge one from an electric light pole and chase it for 100 yards or so. I have seen the same thing happen several times since. Bird calls and courting activities have been much more in evidence here this year than last, and this is due in part, I believe, to the banishment of the Indian dove. Last spring three or four pairs nested here, but in the autumn, as they had become a nuisance, I took steps to reduce them, and they are now but occasional visitors.
