

Bird Notes.

By S. E. Terrill, 19/10/1937.

On 3rd October, 1937, accompanied by Mr. H. Jarman, a search through about half of an 80-acre section on the Clarendon Ridge discovered 15 occupied nests of seven species of birds comprising Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*), Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*), Grey Strike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*), Superb Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), Grey-backed Silvereye (*Zosterops halmaturina*), Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*), and Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). In a deserted nest of a White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*), which the two young birds had left about six weeks previously, was an Elegant Dormouse Opossum (*Dromicia concinna*). It had died apparently not many hours previously, and was curled up in a comfortable-looking position and showed no outward sign of injury.

A fortnight later, on the same section, I saw occupied nests of four additional species—Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*), Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*), Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) and Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*). Another nest, which appeared to be a Zebra Finch's (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) contained a fresh-looking egg of a Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*).

A pair of Grey-backed Silvereyes (*Zosterops halmaturina*) built a nest and reared two young ones in my aviary in Westbourne Park. The period of incubation was ten days, and the young birds left the nest eleven days after they were hatched. Both parents fed the young ones while they were in the nest and for a few days after, but on the sixth day after they left the nest the hen bird had deserted them and was busily engaged building another nest, while the cock bird fed the young ones.

On 13th October I saw a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) eat a hairy caterpillar, commonly known as "woolly bear," at Westbourne Park. It banged the caterpillar on the ground repeatedly before swallowing it. Next day at the same place I saw a Starling with a "woolly bear" in its bill; this time the bird flew away in the direction of Unley with the caterpillar still in its bill.
