

A Day's Outing on Carriewerloo Station.

By T. Brandon, Wilmington.

On 6th October, 1937, at 3.45 a.m., a friend and I left Wilmington for a day's outing on Carriewerloo Station, which is 32 miles in a direct line slightly north of west from Port Augusta. Hammil's Well, on a creek of the same name, was reached at 7.30 a.m. At 12 noon lunch was taken, and then we motored to Hotel Creek, the track being very rough indeed. We later visited Peters Dam, and arrived home at 11.30 p.m., after motoring 145 miles in all in $19\frac{3}{4}$ hours. The first and last part of the trip through the Flinders Range was done in darkness.

(Mr. J. Neil McGilp states that Hammil's Well and Creek, Hotel Creek, and Peters Dam are on the north to north-west portion of Carrierloo and on the road to Yudnapinna Station.)

The birds noted were as follows:—*Tribonyx ventralis*, Black-tailed Native Hen. Numerous at Peters Dam. *Peltohyas australis*, Australian Dotterel. Three were flushed from the track near the Dam. *Accipiter cirrocephalus*, Collared Sparrowhawk. Three and a half miles up Hammil's Creek a nest of this species, which contained one egg on 24th September, at this later date held four eggs. On 24th September the female was flushed from the nest, but the male was not seen. On this occasion (6th October) no bird could be flushed, but on climbing to the nest the male flushed when approached to within 15 feet or so, and then made several swoops at the climber, once alighting for about 30 seconds within four feet while the nest was being inspected. The nest appeared to be an old one of a Crow (*Corvus*) with a fresh layer of sticks placed on top of it, and was lined entirely with (green) gum leaves. The egg-cavity was approximately seven inches wide by two and a half inches deep. The nest was about .35 feet up in a White Gum. The four eggs each measured $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. They were white with blotches of lavender (about 15 on each egg) on the larger end. The female came along after a while and joined the male in the swoops. On leaving the nest and before the climber had got 10 feet away, the male bird returned and went on to the nest. *Falco longipennis*, Little Falcon. Along Hotel Creek on 24th September a Little Falcon had been flushed from a nest which was found to be empty. On 6th October the nest was visited again, and the bird was flushed easily. The nest was a new one, apparently built by the Falcons of coarse sticks and softly lined with wool and fur, as far as could be judged with a mirror, as the nest was not approached nearer than ten feet, owing to the thinness of the limb it was built upon. The nest contained three eggs, measuring $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{8}$ inches, of a white colour, but nearly covered with reddish brown markings—one egg was darkly marked, another was very light, and the third's colour was between the two. The Falcon on flushing flew away and was not seen again. *Falco berigora*, Brown Hawk. One pair of very small birds was seen and a nest was found which contained three eggs. *Kakatoe leadbeateri*, Pink Cockatoo (Major Mitchell). Seven birds were seen. *Kakatoe roseicapilla*, Galah. They were very numerous. *Leptolophus hollandicus*, Cockatiel. Several small flocks were seen and one nest was found containing newly-hatched young. *Barnardius zonarius*, Port Lincoln Parrot. Five were seen. *Psephotus varius*, Mulga-Parrot. Ten were noted. A female was caught on a nest brooding a chick almost ready to fly. The

nest was seven feet up in a hollow in the butt of a White Gum. *Melopsittacus undulatus*, Budgerigah. These birds were numerous and could be flushed from any unoccupied hollow, but no eggs or chicks were found. *Halcyon pyrrhopygius*, Red-backed Kingfisher. Four were seen. One nest, a tunnel in a bank of a creek, was found to contain three fresh eggs. *Hirundo neoxena*, Welcome Swallow. Several seen. The birds were nesting in the wells. *Cheramoeca leucosterna*, White-backed Swallow. Several were seen. One nest, within six feet of the Red-backed Kingfisher's tunnel, was found to be ready for eggs. The burrow was 20 inches long and 18 inches below the ground-level in a bank of a creek. The large hollow at the end of the burrow contained a saucer-shaped nest of dry grass, lined with bullock bush (*Heterodendron*) leaves. The birds were in the vicinity. *Petroica goodenovii*, Red-capped Robin. Three were seen. *Colluricincla rufiventris*, Western Shrike-Thrush; and *Oreoica gutturalis*, Crested Bellbird. These two species were heard. *Coracina novae-hollandiae*, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike. One bird was flushed from a nest in a White Gum. It contained two eggs. *Epthianura tricolor*, Crimson Chat; and *E. aurifrons*, Orange Chat. These birds were numerous and in company on the tablelands. *Smicromis brevirostris*, Brown Weebill. This species was heard. *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, Eastern Whiteface. Two were seen. *Calamanthus campestris*, Rufous Field-Wren, and *Cinclorhamphus cruralis*, Brown Songlark. These two species were heard. *Artamus melanops*, Black-faced Wood-Swallow. Several were seen. *Artamus cyanopterus*, Dusky Wood-Swallow. Two were seen. *Myzomela nigra*, Black Honeyeater. Two males and three females were seen at Hotel Creek, but no nests could be found. *Certhionyx variegatus*, Pied Honeyeater. Many were seen and heard. The first nest to be found was a Pied Honeyeater's. It was situated in a mistletoe growing in a myall (*Acacia*). The hen bird was sitting and refused to leave until nearly touched. On inspection the nest was found to contain two small chicks. Eight other nests of this species were found during the day—one contained a chick almost ready to fly; two contained three eggs each; two contained two eggs each; and three nests were being built. The nests were built mostly in mistletoes growing in myalls at from five to ten feet high, and consisted of fine sticks and creeper stalks lined with small pieces of wool and fine dry speargrass, or sometimes of the ends of fresh bluebush (*Kochia*) fronds and fine dry grass. *Meliphaga virescens*, Singing Honeyeater. Several were seen. *Meliphaga penicillata*, White-plumed Honeyeater; and *Myzantha flavigula*, Yellow-throated Miner. These two species were heard. *Acanthagenys rufogularis*, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater.

Several were seen. Three nests were found—one situated in a mistletoe and two were in thick cedars. The nests were of the suspended type, built of (green) creeper stems interwoven with wool and lined chiefly with wool. Two contained two eggs each and the third had one egg. A bird was flushed from each nest. *Anthus australis*, Pipit. Two birds were seen. *Taeniopygia castanotis*, Zebra Finch. Were numerous at the wells. *Corvus* sp. Several birds were seen. One chick inspected on 24th September turned out to be a Raven (*C. coronoides*). *Gymnorhina hypoleuca*, White-backed Magpie. Several were seen.
