

NOTES FROM WILMINGTON

August 10, 1949.—Two Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*) were noted on the Wilmington reservoir, and flew south on being disturbed.

Several Horsfield Bushlarks (*Mirafra javanica*) were noted flying high and singing beautifully, above a wheat crop.

A Stone Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*) was flushed from a clearing in scrub and flew away, rising to several hundred feet, flying in circles.

Many Horsfield Bronze Cuckoos (*Chalcites basalis*) and Pallid Cuckoos (*Cuculus pallidus*) appeared here in numbers a day or two before the rain in mid-July, and have been here since then; the Horsfields are more numerous on the plain, and the Pallid in the foothills and timber. A nest of Singing Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga virescens*) was found in a boxthorn bush on 31/8/49, containing one Honeyeater egg and one of the Pallid Cuckoo. This is the first time I have known this Cuckoo to breed in this district.

On August 13 and 27, 1949, two pairs of Brown Hawks (*Falco berigora*) were found nesting, near the main Wilmington-Port Augusta road, on the west side of the range; one bird of each pair was of average size and medium color, but the other bird of the first pair was small and rather plump and of a very light brown color, almost yellowish in the underparts. A Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucus*) had been seen in the vicinity a few minutes before, and it occurred to me how much alike these two birds were in size and shape, although this is unusual for a Brown Hawk. The second bird of the latter pair was the opposite in the extreme, it being a large bird, with the typical long wings and a very dark bird, appearing from a distance to be almost of a chocolate color. A friend who was with me remarked that the bird seemed too dark to be a Brown Hawk. Both the light and the dark birds mentioned were the ones flushed from the nests.

Ravens and Magpies are nesting very freely this season.

T. BRANDON.