

at a point two miles north of Melrose. They did not appear to be breeding, and all birds seemed very agitated and called continuously. It was thought they had only recently arrived there, or were perhaps only passing through. Birds of both species have been seen and heard often in the Wilmington district in the last two months, but no breeding has been observed. It would be interesting to know where these birds have been in the past three or four years, and why they should have come back this season. I have been to 250 miles north-east of Alice Springs and twice to Kopperamanna since last July and never saw any of either kind anywhere. In 1932 Masked Wood Swallows and a few White-browed bred here very freely in September, but have not been seen breeding here since.

A friend of mine told me recently that one morning he had watched a White-backed Magpie chase and catch and kill a young Starling and appeared to be going to eat it. I have previously seen a Magpie eating a Sparrow after first pursuing it and catching it in a shed.

November 14.—A flock of about 200 Starlings are at present apparently living on grasshoppers, on my place; these birds have only become fairly numerous in this district since the last drought. The backs of my sheep show good evidence of the good they must do in catching blowflies. The birds can often be seen riding on the sheep's back. It is a pity this bird is such a pest in other parts of the State.

An Owl, believed to be the Barking Owl, gave two short calls, "Oo-Oo," from a large Red Gum tree near the house at 9 p.m. on October 20. I have only heard this bird a few times before and not since 1945. It has always been heard calling on moonlight nights.

The first Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo heard calling this season was on April 18; the last one heard on November 11. None are heard for intervals of several weeks, at times.

The first Pallid Cuckoo was heard this season on May 19. Very few have been seen or heard this season.

On August 5, Blue Bonnets were noted breeding in a patch of mallee near the coast west of Wilmington. Five eggs were found just hatching.

—By T. BRANDON.

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NOTES FROM WILMINGTON, 1950

Since early in September many Masked and White-browed Wood Swallows have been noted in this district. It is several years since these birds have been seen, although a few years ago the Masked species was fairly numerous, with a few White-browed among them. However, this time there seem to be slightly more White-browed than Masked Wood Swallows present. On Carriewerloo Station, north-west of Port Augusta, on September 22, two small colonies of these birds in equal numbers were breeding, having fresh eggs at that time. It was noted that each species kept its nests together, although both kinds were breeding in the same patches of Mulga. On September 30, many birds of both kinds were seen in the scrub at the foot of Mount Remarkable