

BIRD NOTES

attack immediately before the honeyeater fell. We therefore presumed this to be the reason for the honeyeater's injury and death, and wondered whether, had we not interfered, the Magpie would then have eaten it. — (Mrs.) A. H. DUNKLEY.

Accepted August, 1976.

DO MAGPIES PREY ON ADULT BIRDS?

— On 20 February 1976, I was driving slowly along the Meadows-Willunga road, which runs alongside the Kuitpo Forest (Pine) Reserve. My passenger at the time was Dr. R. Smith from Dunedin, New Zealand. There were sapling eucalypts at the roadside verge. Our attention was drawn to rustling in the leaves of a sapling, and we saw an object falling through the tree to the roadside verge. On investigation, the object proved to be an injured Yellow-faced Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus chrysops* which was still alive but soon died in my hand. As far as I could tell, the bird was fully adult. Some blood was issuing from its bill, but otherwise there was no visible sign of injury.

Dr. Smith stated he had seen a White-backed Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* swooping as in