

## Bird Notes.

BIRD NOTES FOR AUGUST, 1920.

Mr. J. W. Mellor, Lockleys, states \_\_\_\_\_ August 2nd:

White-fronted Heron carrying nesting material to large gumtrees where these birds had nested for some years past, probably they carry the material to construct their nests from the feedin<sup>g</sup> swamp some miles distant.

A pair of Black-breasted Plovers, on the 2nd of August, showed signs of having a nest, for they would swoop down close to one's head; upon investigating, three young birds were found. The Plover attacked magpies which came near their nesting place.

A pair of Wagtails made up their minds to nest on a bough close to the house, a site they had occupied several times previously. They kept about the spot from August 2nd till the 9th, when they began to collect cobwebs and started their nest. Stormy weather then set in, and they ceased building, and when the weather became fine again the birds removed the nesting material from the bough mentioned, and began to re-build on a bough at the other side of the tree; rough weather again set in and building operations were suspended. When the fine weather followed the birds changed their mind, and on August 20th removed the foundations of their nest to the limb which they had first selected., and went on with the nest, it being nearly completed on the 27th of August, the birds sitting; in the nest to give it its roundness.

August 7th: A Rufous-breasted Thickhead was searching amongst the foliage of a blue gum for insect life: on the same day was noted a striated Diamond Bird in the gum trees—several of these birds seen of late.

A White-backed Magpie has placed its, nest on an arm-like bough of a Norfolk pine, a most inaccessible place. A pair of Noisy Minahs have a nest in a gum close by, and come into conflict with the Magpies at times.

Chestnut-eared Finches are still about in the boxthorn, and are occupying the old straw nests as roosting places during the cold, wet and stormy nights.

Boobook Owl-, have been exceedingly noisy this month (August). One will start calling near the home, and will be answered by another in the distant paddock.

The Screech, or Delicate Owl, is also present in fair sum numbers. When felling an old blue gum this month, a large hollow was, found, in which many pellets were discovered; an owl had apparently lived in the hollow for years.

Frontal Shrike Tits have been very busy all the month moving about in the tree tops and calling loudly, apparently seeking a nesting site, but no nest has yet come under notice.