

## Bird Notes.

June, 1921.

By Edwin Ashby, Blackwood.

June 11.—Nest of *Acanthiza* at Wittunga, 5 feet high in apple tree, 3 eggs partly set. Painted Quail at Eden Hills, 3 young, almost fledged, in nest.

June 16.—Musky Parakeets in large flocks flying northwards and continued so-doing for the following week.

June 23.—*Geobasileus chrysorrhoea*. A nest commenced 10 days previously, now ready for eggs, birds lining with a few final feathers. Situated 8 feet high in bunch of *Loranthus ewocarpa*. Greenfinches been calling for days, have not heard them till quite recently. Little Brush Wattle birds have only put in an appearance for a week or two and are now very numerous.

*Glyciphila fulvifrons* have recently commenced their spring-whistle.

By J. W. Mellor.

The White-fronted Herons that returned on the 20th May have been about ever since and in all probabilities will soon be nesting in their usual trees, as a great deal of hoarse croaking is going on between the various pairs.

On May 31, saw a male Flame-breasted Robin at Lockleys, an unusual occurrence.

May 31.—A Little Falcon was noted at Lockleys flying swiftly after sparrows.

June 20.—Several Black-breasted Plovers in the open fields where they bred last year.

June 20.—A restless Fly-catcher flying and hovering about, making its incessant sharp "scissor grinding" notes. Also seen again several days later.

June 22.—Observed a number of *Pseudartamus cyanopterus*, Wood Swallows, at Lockleys, eating the large "Night Ants" that were being disturbed by some men levelling the sand.

Also noted on the same date and place a number of White-browed Babblers hopping over the sand in their usual sprightly fashion, one following the other in quick succession both on the ground and in the boughs of the trees.

June 23.—Several *Corvus coronoides perplexus*, Southern Ravens, came about the garden at Lockleys, calling loudly in harsh loud notes, and settled in the fruit trees, but as no fruit is on the trees at present it is presumed that they were seeking insect food, which is plentiful in the soil.

—July, 1921.—

By A. G. Edquist.

During the Field Naturalists' visit to the Botanic Gardens on 22nd July, 1921, the Harmonious Thrush was seen, an unusual and early visit to the Adelaide Plains. The bird was singing but had not attained its full spring song.

By J. Sutton, Netherby.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*).—This bird was observed for the first time this winter at Netherby on 16th July, between 1 and 2 p.m., but he did not call. On 17th inst. the bird first called at 8.38 a.m., several times during the day, and again at 10.25 p.m. He has called on five days since that date, the greatest silence was for four days.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*).—This bird called for the first time this season at 7.44 a.m. on 20th July, and has been calling every day since.

On Sunday 17th July, a Magpie (*Gymnorhina leuconota*), a Mopoke (*Spiloglaux boobook*), and a Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) were heard calling at 5.39 a.m. The last-named bird has been here since 4th June.

By J. W. Mellor.

On the 3rd July the Pallid Cuckoo (*Heteroscenes pallidus*) was first seen at Fulham this year, and on the 5th it appeared at Lockleys where both the notes, running up the scale and the more discordant screeching calls, were frequently heard in the open timbered country. On the 7th several pairs were noted chasing each other about, apparently mating, and all through the month they have been more than usually plentiful, their calls being heard every day. Their early arrival in such numbers seems to point to an early spring, with probably dry weather in the summer months.

While patrolling my paddocks at night during the early part of the month, especially while the moon was growing towards full, I was pleased to hear the number of Screech Owls (*Tyto alba delicatula*) that were flying about in the old gum trees calling loudly in all directions. This was very marked on the 7th inst., when the calls of the Marble Boobook Owl (*Spiloglaux marmorata*) were also noted. Apparently both these species are seeking out their respective hollows now; hence their activity.

On July 7 I noted a female White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*) with her beak full of hair ready to fly to her nest which was nearly finished, save the lining. Several days later I noted three magpies pulling out bits of string from bags of chaff and all had their beaks full before departing to their nests.

The pair of Laughing Jackasses (*Dacelo gigas*) that breed here each year, have been extremely tame and often come down to examine the ground that is being dug, and fine feeds are their reward.

Quite a large number of Murray Magpies (*Grallina cyano-leuca*) are about this year, and seem to be now mating. They are very early birds and are to be seen when it is hardly light.

A solitary Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Eolophus roseicapillus*) was noted at Lockleys on the 18th inst. flying over the large gum trees, but it did not settle.

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—August, 1921.—

By J. W. Mellor.

When laid up with influenza recently I was much interested in a Boobook Owl, which perched near my window each night and uttered its wierd call for a considerable time. These birds have been very noisy all the month, and also the Screech Owls. One of the latter species roosting at my back door.

Magpies have been busy nesting, and the old bird in one case could be seen sitting on the nest. During a recent storm an old nest blew down from a Norfolk Island Pine, and the quantity of wire that had been used in its construction was remarkable. Pieces of iron, steel, galvanized iron, copper, netting, binding, fencing, straw-bale, telegraph, and telephone wire were noticed.

A pair of swallows, building their mud nest over my front door, became a great nuisance owing to the quantity of mud they dropped (fully half of that carried in the building process). Every effort was made to dissuade the little builders from occupying this prominent position, but without avail, and it was decided eventually to allow the nest to be constructed. The feathering operations have been completed, and the nest made ready for laying in, when another pair of swallows came on the scene and literally turned the rightful owners out. A free fight ensued, and I was attracted by the loud chittering of many voices, and on going to the scene of action found that one intruder was actually in the nest, and feathers were flying in all directions. When the battle had ended, I noticed a quantity of feathers of all descriptions lying about, and all the swallows were gone.

A pair of Shrike-tits (*Falconvulus frontatus flavigulus*) have been calling loudly in a tall gum tree near the house, presumably they are selecting a site for building their nest, as every year they build nearby.

Pallid Cuckoos have been about all the month, and seem more plentiful this year than they have been for a long time past, both the "running scale" notes and the harsh grating calls have been uttered all the time.

Minahs (*Myzantha melanocephala whitei*) have been very pugnacious to other birds smaller than themselves, which points to their having started their breeding season.