

Extracts from a letter from our President (J. Neil McGilp), dated Moolawatana, 25th January, 1925.

A nice rain fell two weeks ago, and it was especially heavy in what we call the sandhills, towards the New South Wales border. All the small, and some of the large, fresh and salt water lakes were filled up, and within a week of their filling there arrived water-fowl of all descriptions. I should imagine that the game-shooters are having a lean year down below, for ducks are here in thousands. I noted Black, Grey Teal, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Shoveller, and Pink-eared; there may be others, as I could not get near them all. Red-necked Avocets are in great numbers, whilst the Marsh and Guil-billed Terns are in small flocks here and there. I am sure there will be a great nesting a little later on. Bee-eaters and the White-shouldered Caterpillar-eaters are plentiful, and an odd Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo is about. Those three species were present before the rain. I have noted the metallic-voiced White-fronted Honey-eater and more Hooded-Robins than usual. Budgerygahs are in thousands, and paired off in many cases.

I have also seen Chestnut-eared Finches, Black-faced Wood-Swallows, Singing Honey-eater (a nest with eggs), whilst a Whiteface (*A. leucopsis*) was seen coming out of a hollow spout in a fencing-post. Gibber-Birds (*A. lovensis*) are fairly plentiful, but not nesting yet. Australian Dotterels are arriving in fair number. Generally speaking, the birds were fewer than usual before the rain. I saw a nest being built by a Rufous Field-Wren (*C. campestris isabellinus*) three days ago, but yesterday, when I happened to pass the same spot, the structure had disappeared. The species is about as sensitive as any I know. Galahs and Cockatoos are, as usual, in great numbers. Very few Hawks are about. I have, however, seen a few Whistling Eagles, a pair of Grey Falcons, several Brown Hawks, and a Fork-tailed Kite. Wedge-tailed Eagles are plentiful. Kestrels are fairly numerous. The Black-breasted Buzzards seem to have gone, as there is no sign about their usual locality. I have noted not quite a dozen of Emus. Since the rain I have noticed flying about Black-breasted Plovers, Bustards, Pelicans, Swans, Ducks, and Native Companions, none of which was present prior to the rain. Kangaroos are in great numbers, but have scattered about since the rain.