

By T. G. Souter, Maitland, Yorke's Peninsula, 22/8/1926.

I picked up an egg on the beach at Balgowan in December last and sent it for identification. (Dr. Morgan identified it as an egg of the Hooded Dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*.) Last year a pair of White-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) built in a native pine at the back of the house. The male bird got very vicious, and had to be destroyed, and that left the female the job of feeding her three young. I used to cut up meat into small pieces and put them outside for her. She used to take three pieces away at a time and then come back for another three. This went on for days while the young were in the nest. On one day after the young had left the nest I noticed the mother only took two pieces and then came back. I wondered whether one had been killed or had died, but she soon let me know, for this time she only took one piece of meat, so I followed her and found that two of the young were in one tree and the third was in another tree about 20 yards away. The next day she took three pieces of meat at a time, and I found that the young were all together again. This kind of thing went on until the young were able to take care of themselves, when I stopped feeding them, except occasionally when I was cutting up meat and they were near. That lot of Magpies

has roosted in the trees near the house since that time. This year two pairs have built nests, one in a pinetree at the front of the house, and the other pair in a swamp oak at the back. The former had their nest blown down about a fortnight ago, and the eggs were smashed. On 11th August this pair started building again in a native pine at the back of the house, about 10 yards from the other pair, and the nest now appears to be completed. On Wardang Island on 19th August I saw between 20 and 30 Plain-Turkeys, and they were nesting in a swampy flat. To-day I saw a White-throated Nightjar (*Eurostodopus mystacalis*). I flushed it off the ground near a wattle-bush, and each time after flushing it settled on the ground. I could only view it through the glasses, as it was flying. It was about the size of a Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*), with markings like the Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), but a little darker. When flying it shows two round white patches on the wings. I could not get a good look at the head markings. On 13th June 12 Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) settled in the pinetree in front of the house.

The following species were noted on Yorke's Peninsula and Wardang Island on 19th August:—Stubble-Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*), Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*), Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*), Pacific Gull (*Gabianus pacificus*), Pied Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Sooty Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus unicolor*), Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*), Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*), Double-banded Dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*), Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*), Eastern Curlew (*Numenius cyanopus*), Australian Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*), White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*), Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*), Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*), Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*), White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*), Striated Thornbill (*Acanthiza lineata*), Brown Songlark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*), Singing Honey-eater (*Meliphaga virescens*), Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*), Crow (*Corvus ceciliae*), White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).

Nesting Notes.—23rd June—White-backed Magpies building (two nests). 10th July—Banded Plover, nest containing eggs. 8th August—Red-capped Dotterel, nest containing eggs. 15th —Pipit, nest just finished. 22nd—Pied Cormorants, with young birds, on the beach.