

of original ground, beyond a salt-bush flat, beside a belt of suitable nesting timber. The parrot flew to and perched on a dead tree, but soon disappeared.

Oct. 4. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Howe, spending the day here, observed a pair of Elegant Parrots on the wing, half a mile north-west of original locality, in open timber. No further birds have been noted during the two weeks which have elapsed since.

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It should be noted that when the birds were first seen, grasses were in full seed, nearing maturity, but still too unripe to cast seed. Following several years of extreme drought, growth is phenomenal, and no doubt ideal conditions prevail for such birds as these grass-parrots. One was struck by their being so much part and parcel of the grassy carpet—particularly by the way in which they melted into their surroundings the instant they alighted. When one learns their technique, they are easier to observe, especially when, as they frequently do, they quietly flutter, with slowly fanning wings, spread tail just clear of the ground, and feet or 'landing gear' not retracted. In this part of the State, with its vast open unfrequented areas, it is impossible to guess just where these handsome little birds may be nesting. All the observations recorded were made in the late afternoon.

Notes from Red Cliffs.—This season (1945-46) large flocks of migratory birds have arrived in the Mildura and Red Cliffs districts. It is many years since I have seen such quantities of wood-swallows—White-browed and Masked. They are here in thousands, and should do valuable work in helping to control the grasshopper plague.

I have not been able to visit the places where the 'hoppers' are being attacked by poison and I do not know that the wood-swallows are present in these localities. If so, it will be interesting to discover if the poison also affects the bird-life.

With the wood-swallows came thousands of Budgerygahs and Crimson Chats, and numbers of other species of birds in small flocks and in pairs. It is a season that one might find strays visiting the Mallee, and on October 24 I was delighted to see two male Pied Honeyeaters, the first that I have recorded. Two days later I located a female and I am hopeful that the species will nest in the district. Has this bird been previously authentically recorded for Victoria?*

The little Black Honeyeater is also common and nesting freely.—L. G. CHANDLER, Red Cliffs, Vic., 28/10/46.

*This contribution was received before the note on page 392, vol. 46, was published.—Ed.