

racy. The bird returned to the young after some ten dives at me but when I continued the pursuit it once more returned and hovered some 30 feet above me. From this position it half-closed its wings and plummeted down at me, some part of its plumage making a strong drumming noise, much akin to that made by snipe in courtship flight. No contact was made with my body, the bird pulling out of its dive about three feet above me, to return to its hover and a repeat dive. As I was slowed by the attacks the young birds made good their escape and after five "drumming dives" my assailant left me to return to its young.

The above examples indicate the type of behaviour that may be expected from nesting Little Crows and I have never experienced such behaviour from Ravens, excepting an earlier note of mine (*Emu*, 59: 296), which referred to an attack by believed Ravens when I approached them at a sheep's carcass. That event occurred four years ago when I was over-confident in my ability to distinguish between the Little Crow and the Raven. I now believe that my attackers on that occasion were, in fact, Little Crows. In the excitement of the attack, the usually short call of the Little Crow may become a little protracted and I offer this as an excuse for my mis-identification. The birds concerned in this incident were thought to be immature and it is probable they were actually a family party. The date (November) is consistent with that, as is also the fact that the location was in belah scrub, a frequent nesting habitat of the Little Crow but not of the Raven.

Juvenile plumage in White-headed Stilt.—There does not appear to exist any description of the somewhat puzzling juvenile plumage of the White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*). It differs considerably from the well-known immature stage described in several ornithological works.

A juvenile male secured by me at a lagoon near Cadell, Murray River, S.A., on January 4, 1961, had the general appearance of a large sandpiper with pink legs. The plumage of the mantle and upper wing-coverts was laced with light brownish-buff; hind-neck sparingly speckled with light grey; crown of head grey, laced with dirty-white to pale buff. Axillaries white. Extreme tips of secondaries margined with whitish-grey, showing as light margin to wings in flight.

Iris brownish-orange; pharynx flesh pink; legs and feet pale rose-pink; bill black with extreme base of lower mandible brownish. Dimensions: total length 316 mm; tail 69 mm; span of wings 570 mm; wing 261 mm; tarsus 84 mm; middle toe and claw 48 mm; tip of claws of middle toes exceed tip of tail by 118 mm.—E. F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 19/3/62.