well, at one period as many as ninety young birds being reared. They gradually disappeared, being either shot or destroyed by vermin, notwithstanding they were under the care of an experienced English gamekeeper. A resident of Stanley, on the north-west coast, has on more than one occasion imported these birds. Sir Richard Dry, also, imported Pheasants and Partridges (Perdix perdix). Young birds were reared on the Quarby estate, near Hagley, but they were all shot or destroyed.

A little time since a resident of the Midlands made two unsuccessful attempts to acclimatise Red Grouse (Lagopus redunca) and Partridges. Recently another attempt was made. Eggs have also been brought from England to ascertain if they would remain fertile during the transit. One great drawback to the successful rearing of game birds is the want of sufficient suitable cover.

Some Field Notes.

By C. F. Bercher, LL.B., Geelong.

Cacomantis flabelliformis, Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

On 30th September last I was rambling with a friend along the “White Bank,” a tongue of tea-tree covered sand that lies between the lower Barwon River and the sea. Stooping beneath a leptospermum bush, and looking about in the low foliage, I discovered an old nest of a Scrub-Wren (Sericornis). Inside was an egg that broke as it was touched, and proved to be a Fan-tailed Cuckoo’s, of possibly last season. A further glance showed a new nest at my shoulder, sheltered cunningly by a thick bough. I withdrew two fresh eggs of the Scrub-Wren; and the third, which was also fresh, was another Fan-tailed Cuckoo’s. A comparison of this with the pieces of the old egg made it certain, to my mind, that they were laid by the same bird. The nest opening was fairly large. These are the first eggs of this Cuckoo I have found in this district since 1892, on 23rd July of which year I got two from Scrub-Wren’s nests in tea-tree fringing Lake Conneware. One nest contained only the egg of the Cuckoo, the other an egg of the nest’s proper tenant as well. Both Cuckoos’ eggs were very much alike in the latter case also, and the nests were only about 100 yards apart.

Glosopsittacus porphyrocephalus, Purple-crowned Lorikeet.

On 28th September, in the bushy country lying between Marcus Hill and Ocean Grove, usually known as the Queens-cliff road bush, Masters P. and A. Young discovered the nest-hollow of this charming little Lorikeet. It was in a green limb of a white gum, and contained three young birds ready for their
first flight. The distinctive porphyry-coloured patch on the
crown of the head showed itself almost as clearly as in adult
specimens. The fledglings were kept alive for a day or so by
constant feeding in the mode presumably adopted by their
parents, but a cold night killed them. This is the first authenti-
cated taking of the nest in this district, and seems very early in
the season, as the other members of the order Psittaci do not
usually breed here before late October.

**PARDALOTUS** (genus)—Pardalotes.

The Masters Young above mentioned, who are close ob-
servers of birds in the field, took, during the space of a few days
in September, three clutches of Pardalotes' eggs each of
which differed strikingly from the others in point of size. The
first set taken was one of three eggs of *P. punctatus* from a
tunnel into the side of a gutter on a country road. These eggs
are much smaller than those subsequently taken, and I have
always noted that the Spotted Pardalote's eggs may at once be
distinguished from other local species in this way. Furthermore,
the Spotted Pardalote never, in this district at least, tunnels
into a perpendicular or steep bank, but always into a very
gentle declivity, as the rise alongside a road, or the mouth of a
rabbit-burrow. The second clutch was one of four from a hole
in a gum-tree at Batesford. In this case the bird was not
identified, except that the head was striped. The eggs were
peculiar by reason of their very large size. The last nest taken
was in a steep creek bank, also at Batesford. This contained
two eggs, of a size intermediate between the last-mentioned eggs
and those of *P. punctatus*, but exactly corresponding in all
respects with eggs previously taken by me in similar positions,
and with two sets found also in a steep creek bank at Narre
Warren later on in the season, a bird caught in one of the two
latter nests proving to be *P. assimilis*. A closer noting of these
two species may probably prove that *P. ornatus* is an invariable
tree-breeder, while its ally keeps to the ground. It is difficult
here to get at many of the nests in tree-hollows, as they must
always be chopped out, and take some finding in the first
instance.

**GRAUCALUS MELANOPS,** Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.

On 11th November, in a quiet gully near Narre Warren, I saw
a Graucalus (Cuckoo-Shrike) fly from an old nest of the Pied
Grallina. Percy Young, who was with me, climbed the tree and
found a single egg of the Graucalus. The nest was very slightly
injured since the builders had left it, and the Cuckoo-Shrike had
added merely a few cobwebs and a little lining. The egg was
hard-set. I stood under a tree the bird flew to, and examined it
carefully. Strange to say, there was no black about the face.
In an adjacent tree we found this season's nest of the Grallina,
with four eggs.