

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 Quamby 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 scoticus*) 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.

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CACOMANTIS FLABELLIFORMIS, Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

On 29th 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 25th July of which year I got two from Scrub-Wrens' nests in tea-tree fringing Lake Connemare. 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.

GLOSSOPSITTACUS 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 authenticated 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 observers 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.