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RICKER: Birds of Victoria Land


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**Movements of the Willie Wagtail.**—In the Jandowae district there is a distinctive movement of the Willie Wagtail, *Rhipidura leucophrys*. About April, birds move into the open practically treeless plains, where they remain during the winter, and return about August or September.

At Jandowae, and for 35 miles south, there is an expanse of open treeless and lightly-timbered box country. West of Jandowae, remnants of brigalow scrub are to be found, while farther west the country changes to thicker scrub of ironbark, box, *Casuarina*, brigalow, etc.

Several birds will establish themselves about a house, but more often in paddocks of sorghum, which may be miles from the nearest tree. In these crops, which are grown widely throughout the area, the birds live entirely during the winter months, even roosting at night in them. They do not leave until the time is right or until the paddock is ploughed. Even after the crop is harvested, the birds will remain in the stubble. (Sorghum grows to a height of 3 to 4 feet).

Each year the same number return to the same area. For example, two birds always arrive at my house, and five occupy a nearby paddock, which is always planted with sorghum. Probably the same birds return each year. Only a few scattered pairs remain after the general exodus in autumn.

This movement must take in thousands of birds for I have seen them throughout the expanse of open country to the south of Jandowae as well as about that town. Perhaps the movement is local—birds moving from forest country scattered to the east of Jandowae and from scrub to the west. I have found them breeding in both areas in spring. If the movement is more widespread, then banding may provide the answer.—LLOYD NIELSEN, Mail Service 118, Jandowae, Q'ld.