

Balicup would have been a regular breeding place. But no one I questioned about this matter had heard of their breeding on the lake. Probably the Banded Stilt was always a bird of the interior at the breeding season, and loves solitude at that period of its life, awaiting favourable opportunities of exceptional rains before attempting to rear its young.

In the year 1904 I was in the Norseman district. The winter was exceptionally wet, and Lakes Dundas and Cowan presented vast areas of water. I saw Banded Stilts on Lake Dundas, and both Hooded and Red-capped Dotterels were nesting there. Later in the year I met a young fellow who had been prospecting farther north on Lake Cowan. He told me he had come across a large colony of long-legged, long-beaked, black and white birds, nesting on a sandy beach. He described the eggs as white with black markings. I was greatly puzzled, and as I held the view that the Banded Stilt probably migrated to a distant country to breed, I dismissed the probability of the birds being of that species. In the light of recent discoveries I now think that this was a colony of these remarkable birds.

The Grey Fantail.—This charming little bird frequents our home grounds here almost all the year round, nesting here and there amidst the shelter afforded by the many ornamental trees and shrubs which abound. Usually they choose the common laurel for their nesting sites, but will occasionally select a spot on a bough of a horizontal cypress, and again they will make their tiny and beautiful nests amidst one of the ivy bushes close to the house. To-day, however, February 1, I was shown a nest containing three half-fledged young, in a most unusual site. The birds had chosen to build what is most likely a second nest low down in the branches of a hawthorn hedge which skirts the road leading to the rear of the homestead, and along which motors and horse-drawn vehicles, as well as saddle-horses, are frequently passing every day. The nest is only 3 feet from the ground, and the distance from it to the wheel tracks is just 6 feet. This means that the body of the motors passes within 4 feet or thereabouts of the nest, level with the axles.

This brood will be lucky if it escapes the eyes of a brood of Grey Butcher-birds (*Cracticus torquatus*) which frequent the locality. I have not previously known the Fantails breeding so late, and it is all the more remarkable on account of the drought which we are experiencing, though swallows are not out of nests here yet either.—R. W. LEGGE, R.A.O.U., Cullenswood, Tas.