

Zonæginthus guttatus. Diamond Firetail.

On March 24, 1945, a single bird was seen in a plantation.

Ægitha temporalis. Red-browed Finch.

At times numerous, they may disappear for several years.

Corvus coronoides. Australian Raven.

Very common.

Strepera graculina. Pied Currawong.

A pair remained throughout the winter of 1911 but the species was not seen again until 1938 when a single bird appeared.

Craicticus torquatus. Grey Butcher-bird.

'Turkeith' is too far from the open forest and there has only been one record (June, 1943).

Gymnorhina hypoleuca. White-backed Magpie.

Very common. In dry years they visit the fowlyard and eat eggs and chickens as well as many native small birds. They have increased considerably in the district.

INTRODUCED BIRDS

Carduelis carduelis. Goldfinch.

"Are becoming numerous; came here about 1904. Nests very common in fruit trees, wattle tree on drive, low pine bough." "They leave the garden in autumn and take to the paddocks where they live on the Scotch thistle seed up to the middle of April at any rate" (1941). They appear in the garden during August.

Chloris chloris. Greenfinch.

In August, 1929, it is recorded that—"One or two came early in the month. They have been here for about 20 years and nest in the spring and early summer and then depart until August."

Turdus merula. Blackbird.

In 1911—"A pair came here this spring; I think they have been here before." In 1918—"Always here and nest in garden." They commence singing at the end of July or early August (the wetter, the earlier) and continue till the end of December.

Alauda arvensis. Skylark.

There is no date of its first arrival, the first mention being of a nest with five eggs (November 28, 1928).

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling.

"First came to this district about 1898 when there was a pair in the 'Turkeith' woolshed. Then they went over to Mt. Hesse Woolshed—in a few years they were in mobs of thousands."

Sandpipers Assuming Breeding Plumage.—On May 1, 1950, while watching a large flock of Little Stints (*Erolia ruficollis*) on a salt marsh near the southern tip of Lake Corangamite (Vic.), I noticed a flock of a dozen or so Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Erolia acuminata*) among the Stints. Four of the Sandpipers seemed much darker than normal, and close inspection through field glasses revealed that they had started to don breeding plumage.

The throat and breast were rich rufous, but the upper surface was still the usual greyish colour.

Both Stints and Sandpipers were unusually quiet and were evidently on the point of departing northwards. Four days later all had gone.—A. A. MCGARVIE, Pomboineit East, Vic., 29/6/50.