

Artamus personatus. Masked Wood-Swallow.

Common.

Climacteris affinis. White-browed Tree-creeper.*

A flock of four birds was seen in the 'breakaway' country, six miles north-west of the Station Creek pumping station.

Gliciphila albifrons. White-fronted Honeyeater.

Fairly plentiful in river gum country. Only isolated birds were seen in mulga.

Taeniopygia castanotis. Zebra Finch.

Abundant. Breeding was much in evidence and young and eggs were in all stages of development.

Strepera versicolor. Grey Currawong.*

Three were seen in river gum country.

Gymnorhina dorsalis. Western Magpie.

Several pairs were seen in the river gums along Station Creek. On November 24 one was observed sitting on a nest and another nest contained large young.

Starling's Mimicry.—This summer (1956-57) I have had demonstrated to me the ability of the introduced English Starling as a mimic. In November a pair nested in the space between the skillion roof and ceiling of my bedroom. On several occasions during the nesting period I was awakened about sunrise by what sounded like a hen cackling. (I keep no hens and the sound, anyway, came from the ceiling). Then, accompanied by a good deal of scuffling overhead, the Starlings indulged in a series of imitations. Besides the notes of the cackling hen (which presumably they had heard on a neighbouring farm) they gave the saw-sharpening-like call of the Tasmanian Native Hen, the high-pitched shriek of the Black Cockatoo, the up-the-chromatic scale call of the Pallid Cuckoo, the mating call of the Dusky Robin, and, most interesting of all, a perfect imitation of the 'mo-poke' call of the little Spotted Owl. (Starlings are evidently light sleepers). Interspersed with these imitations were the wheezy, piping notes which are presumably their own peculiar calls.

Recently (March 11) they revisited their old nesting quarters—the night was wet and they possibly used it as a shelter—and again treated me to some samples of their mimicry. Before leaving they did the cackling hen, the Black Cockatoo, the Dusky Robin and the Spotted Owl, but mercifully omitted the Native Hen.—J. R. SKEMP, Myrtle Bank, Tas., 12/3/57.