

out three young. The young birds do not remain about the home-
stead for any length of time.

With a desire to experiment with some of the smaller birds, I robbed a pair of Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*) that have, until recently, been "at home" in my garden at King's Park, Adelaide. In 1920 I took their first eggs but they built again and successfully hatched out three young. In 1921 I even went further, and took the eggs of their first and second nest; the birds only built again within a few yards of the other two nests and brought out three young. This pair of wrens have only had one brood each year since I have lived here. I regret to say that this year, when they were putting the final touches to their nest they disappeared, having, I think, the misfortune to meet with death by cats which had until then escaped my attention, but have now been interred with 32 other cats (gathered during the last six years) under my fruit trees. Though I missed the wrens in October I have not yet seen any other wrens in my garden, but as my neighbour's wrens have a brood with them, I fully expect some of them later. I have never found more than one pair of wrens in my garden except when they had their young with them; they have always hunted out the young birds.

A pair of Silver-eyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) have for the last five years nested in fruit trees in my garden. I have only found them with one brood each year, though in 1922 I took their first set of three eggs; their second nest was built in the same tree and the young hatched out. In 1923 I took two sets from the little birds, but again they hatched out three young in a tree not twenty yards away; the first set was of three eggs and the second two eggs, but these were quite fresh and may have been taken before the set was complete.

Some readers may think that I have been hard on the birds. My experiments have been done with a desire to gain some knowledge of our birds and their habits and I have from my observations proved to my satisfaction that birds seldom bring forth a second family. This is quite contrary to what I hoped to prove, I have always thought that the birds produced offspring a second time in a season, especially in the interior. I know that birds in the interior always lay larger clutches of eggs in a good season. In this way I suppose they endeavour to make up for the previous bad time.

This is a subject that is well worth working out and I should like other members of the Union to quote from their observations when they have an opportunity to study the same pair of birds for a few seasons.

Grey Teal (*Virago gibberifrons*) in the Riverina.—The adult birds left here in December, 1924, but the fledged young were not able to fly (in some cases) till the middle of March, 1925, when they too left. This is our commonest duck, but, although still common, it is not as plentiful as it was some years back. The wholesale slaughter of our wild ducks, carried on each year, under the title of "sport," is rapidly thinning out all the species.—F. V. McMICKING, R.A.O.U., Kincora, Toootool, N.S.W.