

towards the end of December, I noticed that many of the bowers, or rather playgrounds, were deserted, showing that the breeding season was over.

Ptilorhis victoriae (Victoria Rifle-Bird).—These beautiful birds inhabit the dense scrubs of the highlands. They were not nearly so plentiful as when I visited the district in 1916. A few were observed in the scrubs of Hinchinbrook Island, also in the ranges at the back of Cardwell and the head of the Murray. They did not appear to be breeding.

Strepera (Bell-Magpie) (Probably *S. graculina*).—A bird of this genus was seen and heard on several occasions on the range, but was not identified.

Cracticus nigrogularis (Pied Butcher-Bird).—Seen about the tableland and about Kirrima Station, where it came into the garden.

Cracticus quoyi (Black Butcher-Bird).—This bird was fairly plentiful in the mangroves and scrubs about Cardwell, and I found it breeding in the mangroves on the Murray river, where it was fairly numerous. It was also observed on the top of the range. When in the Cardwell district in 1916 I took note of this bird and was inclined to think it was slighter in build than the Cape York bird. On that occasion I only observed a single rufous bird, and that was at the beginning of November. On this trip I took particular notice of these birds and found them breeding at Cardwell early in October. Three nests were found containing eggs, and at each nest both the parent birds were black. Again, on the Murray, I took a set of eggs in November. At this nest both birds were black. I then left for the tableland, returning to the Murray at the end of December. From then till the end of January I examined three nests with young birds; two of the nests had three young and the third had two. All these young birds were rufous and the parents black. I also saw two lots of three young birds being fed away from the nests, and these were also rufous and the parents black. This points conclusively to the fact that the rufous bird is immature, though occasionally the immature bird may mate before assuming the adult plumage. (I have seen this occur on rare occasions with *C. nigrogularis*). On a trip to Cape York many years ago I examined a nest of *C. rufescens* or *quoyi* and found three young all black. It would require careful measurements of the birds from Cape York and the Cairns or Cardwell districts to determine if there is a difference. There may be a "break" between, as there is with the Scrub-Turkeys, *A. lathamii* and *A. purpureicollis*.

Cracticus torquatus (Grey Butcher-Bird).—Seen in the hilly country along Blenco Creek and near the Blenco Falls at the Herberton Gorge.

Gymnorhina tibicen (Black-backed Magpie).—Seen on the tableland near Kirrima Station.

A Brown Hawk's Record.—Whilst collecting eggs as a youngster I found a nest of a Brown Hawk (*Ieracidea berigora*) with two eggs in it. I took one, as my mate said that they would lay again if one was left. The following week-end I climbed to the nest again and found three eggs. I came away with two. This was considered a lucky find, as all the egg-collectors wanted Brown Hawks' eggs, so when Saturday came out I went again, and climbed the tree. Again there were three eggs, one quite warm. The Hawk was not far away, but she did not worry me. I took two, meaning to continue doing the same thing every week, but the opportunity did not come my way for about two months. Then I brought my mate and a sugar-bag with a lot of wool in it and a long piece of string. I climbed to the nest but was badly disappointed to find three chicks and one addled egg. I had expected at least 20! The following year I took two eggs from the same nest, and eight years later this nest was robbed by my younger brothers.—J. J. DE WAMPEL, Dungog, N.S.W.