

Various	3900
Waxbill	12
Yellow-rumped	14
Zebra	198
Geese, Pied	6
Guinea Fowls	12
Kookaburras	12
Magpies	6
Native Companions (Brol- gas)	4
Parrakeets—	
Alexandra	10
Browns	7
Bourkes	95
Pennant	14
Parrots—	
Blue-bonnet	16
Blue Mountain	1
Blue-winged	16
Crimson Rosella	9
Cockatiels	3
Corellas—Longbill	28

Galahs	5
Grass-	56
Leadbeater	10
Lovebirds	98
Mulga	53
Pale-headed	1
Rosella, Port Lincoln	50
Red-collared Lorikeets	19
Regent	56
Scarlet-breasted	2
Shell	50
“Stanley”	64
“Twenty-eight”	46
Turquoise	16
Western	60
W.A. King	14
Pigeons—	
Bronze-winged	4
Crested Bronze-winged	1
Spinifex	22
Plovers	8
Quail—Californian	4

C. F. H. JENKINS, Branch Secretary.

Zebra Finch.—In the early days of the Red Cliffs settlement, I did not see any specimens of this species (*Tæniopygia castanotis*), but, as the vineyards became established and a certain species of summer grass made its appearance, the Finches began to arrive. Every year now, during the autumn and winter, the little birds are in huge flocks, and a few Hawks reap a bountiful harvest from their ranks. Nesting accommodation becomes acute, and every available hollow, dip-tin and bush is utilized as a nesting site. One finds them nesting at almost any time of the year, but July to the following March appears to cover the season. As with most Finches, the nests are rather insanitary, but the young seem to thrive. At an early age the young are fed on insects.

The nest in the illustration was built in a trellis post in a vineyard. A hollow post is a favourite position for the nest. In the mallee scrub I have seen only one nest of this Finch. Of course, in the scrub close to the vineyards their nests are plentiful. Like most of our native birds, this species, although at present so numerous, may eventually be driven out of the settled areas, by the action of Sparrows and Starlings. On my property dozens of nests of native birds have been destroyed by Sparrows. I have always protected the Sparrow, for, although very troublesome in the fruit season, it destroys numerous insects. Now a Black-and-white Fantail, Yellow-rumped Thornbill and a Chestnut-crowned Babbler are the latest victims, and war has been declared!—L. G. CHANDLER, Red Cliffs, Vic., 25/10/38.

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PLATE 59



Zebra Finch at nest.

Photo. by L. G. Chandler.