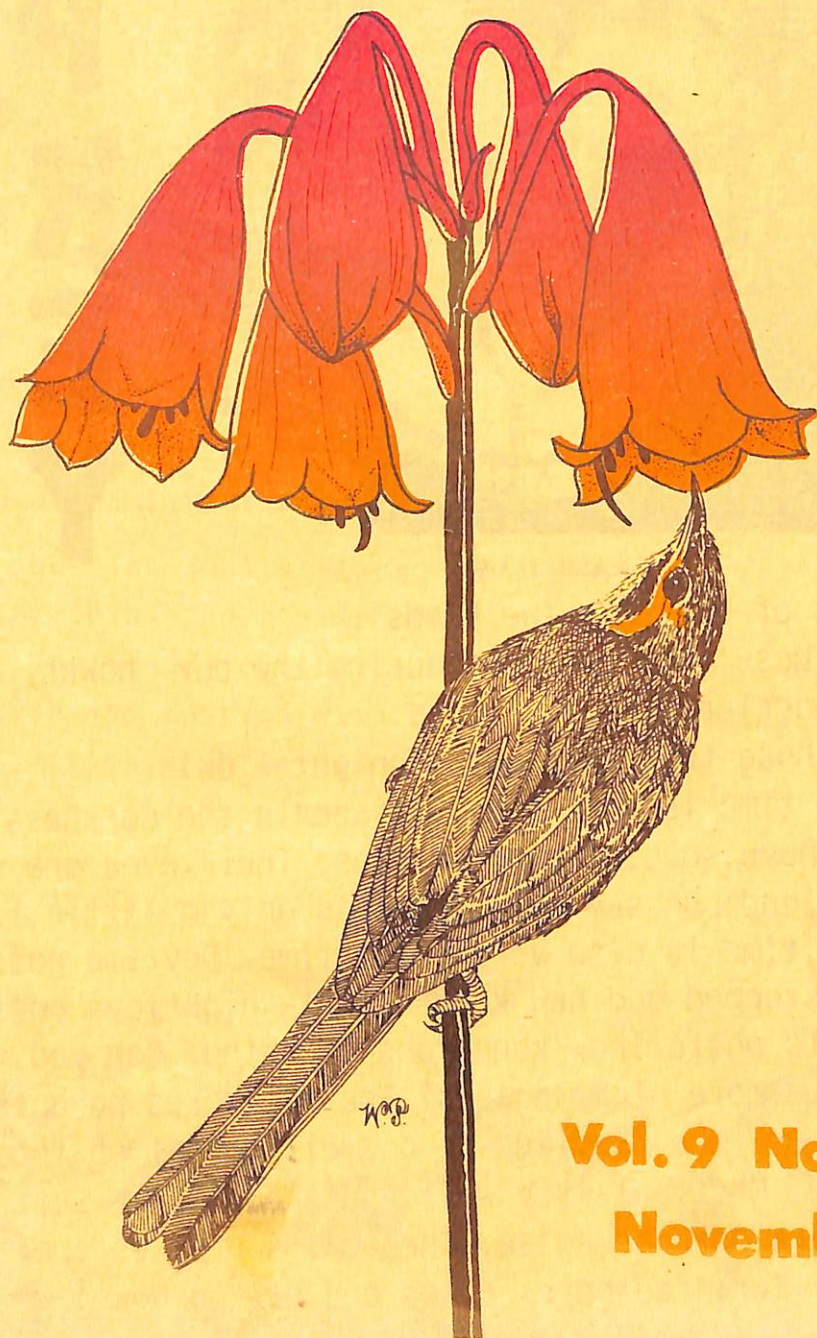


PROBE



Vol. 9 No. 9
November

BIRDS OF



MASKED OWL

PREY

Birds of prey are two kinds :

- (a) Those that come out during the day- hawks, eagles, harriers.
- (b) Those that come out at night - owls.

Night time is dark time. To see in the darkness the owls have special kind of eyes. Their eyes are very large and can see when there is only a little light. Night time is also very quiet time. Daytime noises have stopped and new kinds start- nightjays calling, rabbits pattering, kangaroos thumping. Can you think of some more night noises? The owl makes no noise. It can hear the rustling of a small animal on the ground. Most owls fly while hunting. Their soft feathers make no noise. The owl's prey is swallowed whole. Fur, feathers, bones and all go down!

Watch Out For WILLY



One of our best-loved birds is the perky, cheeky little Willie-Wagtail. It can be found in the country side and in city parks and gardens. It has black and white feathers, and is very bold and cheeky.

The nest is usually placed in a fork near the end of a very thin branch. The nest is made of grass, horse hair and bound together with cobwebs. Their eggs are greyish and spotted with brown. The Willie-Wagtail will attack much larger birds and animals that intrude on it's nesting area.

The Wagtail feeds on flies and insects. It calls "Sweet pretty little creature" often at moonlight.

* See if you can find out how many eggs Willie Wagtail lays in the nest.



PECKERS!!

Have you ever noticed the beaks of birds? They are different in size and shape, depending on how they are used. Without beaks birds would not be able to feed themselves. They also may use beaks when climbing; as tools when nestmaking; and for carrying food to their young.

The shape of the beak- whether straight, curved, blunt, short or flattened - tells us the kind of food the bird eats.

BIRDS OF PREY (eagles, hawks, and owls) have strong, hooked beaks for tearing flesh. They are flesh eaters.

FRUIT EATERS (parrots, cockatoos) have strong, hooked beaks, for holding and splitting nuts, and for climbing.

SEED CRACKERS (budgerigars and finches) have strong, short beaks for holding and shelling seeds.

INSECT EATERS (wagtails, swallows, robins) have longer, thinner beaks.

MUD SIFTERS (ducks) have broad, flat bills which strain small creatures from the mud.

HONEY EATERS (red wattle, miners) have long, slender beaks to reach into the centre of the honey- flowers.

DIGGERS (magpies, ibis) use the beak as a digging tool to get grubs.

FISH CATCHERS (pelicans, shags, darters) use the beak as a fishing net.



Goshawk



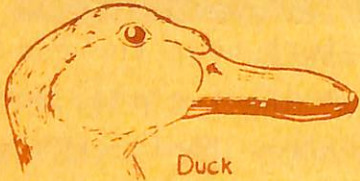
Eagle

FLESH EATERS



Owl

MUD SIFTERS



Duck



Finch

SEED CRACKERS



Budgerigar

INSECT EATERS



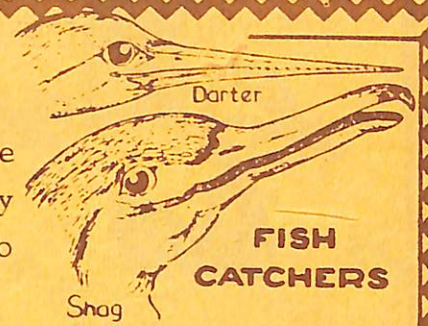
Wagtail



Frogmouth



Swallow



Darter

Shag

FISH CATCHERS

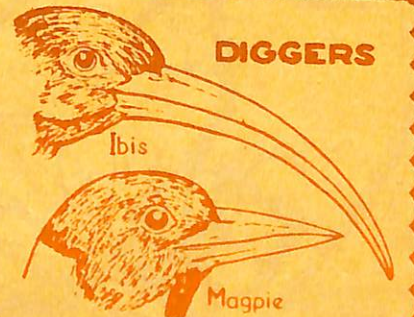
HONEY EATERS



Red Wattle Bird



Miner



Ibis

Magpie

DIGGERS

FRUIT EATERS



Parrot

Can you name these birds?



Here are the answers in jumbled order.
 Helmeted honeyeater, Emu, Tawny frogmouth,
 Silver gull, Wedge-tailed eagle, Mopoke owl,
 Black duck, Cockatoo, White Ibis.

WAY

A patch of earth is full of life. No matter how bare it looks, things are happening underground. Worms and insects are at work deep down. Seeds are waiting for the soil to feel right for growth to start.

Choose a patch of earth for yourself, and see what grows there. Pull out all the weeds and stones and twigs. Turn the soil over with a spade. Work the earth with a fork until it is fine and crumbly. Build a low fence to mark your patch. Now watch and wait. What happens?

FIND OUT:

What do worms eat ? Are they of any use to man ?

Do any other animals live underground ?

What grows in your patch, apart from grass and weeds ?

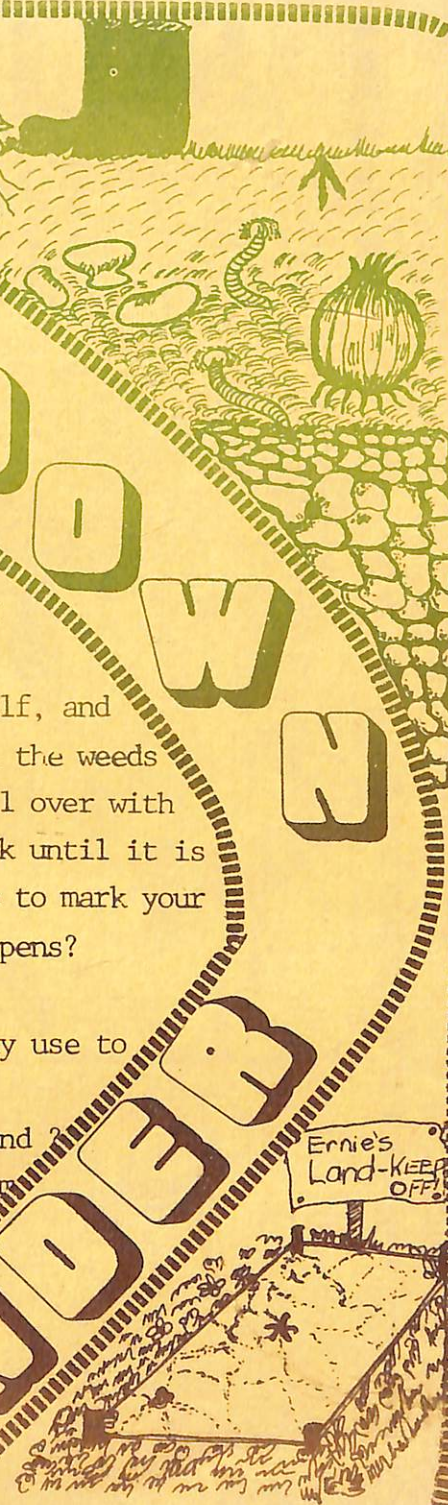
What will grow from bulbs ?

What else did you find in your patch, when you

turned the soil?

DOWN

UNDER



SILHOUETTES

*Can you match the bird to it's name from the list below -

Toucan Crane Rhea Shoebill Puffin
Kittiwake

