

with a hole as large as a two-shilling piece under its wing. The Falcon merely wheeled round and sat in a tree near by waiting till I left, so that he could commence his meal. I have also known them kill Starlings, Parrots, Finches, Black Duck, and White-fronted Herons. To see a Falcon attacking another bird reminds me of nothing more than a black-nosed German aeroplane attacking one of our observing machines. Falcons nest freely in the district in the hollow spouts of old red gum trees, and are very fierce when they have a nest about.

Brown Hawk (*Hieracidea berigora*).—These are very harmless birds, and like to get their living as easily as possible; consequently, a good many are poisoned from eating rabbits that have been poisoned with strychnine and apple. All the nests I have found have been in red gum trees, and they are very fond of making their nest in a mistletoe.

Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides*).—Common all through the district, and nothing but good can be said of them. A favourite spot for them is the ridge of a haystack, where they can swoop down on any mice that may appear. I saw a Kestrel fly from a hole about 25 feet up in a gum-tree last year, and on climbing up was surprised to find three eggs of the Harmonious Shrike-Thrush in their well-built nest instead of (as I had expected to see) the rusty-brown eggs of the Kestrel.

Return of Migrants and Visitors.

By H. STUART DOVE, WEST DEVONPORT (TAS.)

In their very interesting paper on "The Birds of Sydney" in current (October) *Emu*, Messrs. Le Souëf and Macpherson remark having noted a Rufous-fronted Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*) in the same spot, at the same time of year, for three years in succession. The same experience has occurred to me with more than one species. A Tree Pardalote (*P. affinis*) returns to the same gum-tree in my enclosure at the beginning of September each year, and utters for several days its sprightly "Pick-it-up" call. About three weeks later its congener, the Spotted Pardalote (*P. punctatus*), utters its double note, "Wit-loo" (second syllable lower and softer than first), from the same tree. Each spring a Bronze-Cuckoo (either *plagosus* or *basalis*) comes to sit on the same electric light wire not far from the beach and Bluff, and calls with great persistence from that perch. There is a peculiarity in the notes by which it may be recognized as the same individual. A still more remarkable instance is quoted in the latest *Bird-Lore* (Audubon Society, U.S.A., vol. xxii., 4), where it is recorded by an Illinois observer that on 25th May, 1919, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak flew in through the open door of a glass-enclosed porch, where he beat vainly against the panes until exhausted; was picked up and resuscitated, but before

completely recovering was photographed sitting on a boy's hand (a beautiful reproduction is given in the magazine) and banded with No. 49,510. After release he took to himself a mate; they built and raised their family not far away, and then left for warmer climes. On 1st May, 1920, the Grosbeaks returned from their winter quarters, and one was found in the same porch the following day. When caught, it was found to be banded, and the number revealed was 49,510—"We held again in our hands the same bird which had been held and photographed a year before." The editor of the section, Dr. A. A. Allen, remarks on this being a good example of the results obtained by banding birds. The bands have proved not only that the birds come back to the same place to nest each year, but likewise that some, at least, spend each winter in the same place.

A striking little piece of evidence, tending to confirm my idea that our Summer-Bird (*Graucalus parvirostris*) is a migrant, comes from Somerset, about 33 miles west of Devonport. Mr. C. Ross Mackenzie writes:—"Knowing that you are interested in the movements of birds, I am sending an observation made on 15th of this month (September). My farm is on a hill overlooking the sea, and on that day I witnessed the arrival of about 100 'Martins' and about 30 Summer-Birds. The first came at 3 p.m., the latter about half an hour afterwards. The 'Martins' came in a body, and appeared quite fresh; the Summer-Birds—18 first, then the others straggling in twos and threes—seemed somewhat fatigued, and kept 'heading-up' to the wind, which was easterly and fresh. The 'Martins' stayed about near the coast, but the others moved away inland, only one being visible next day."

"Martin" is, of course, the local name for Wood-Swallows (*Artamus sordidus*). That part of the coast, as it trends away to north-west, receives the migrants from the mainland, or King Island, or the Hunters, before we get them. I did not see any Summer-Birds in this district until 21st inst., and then only two pairs. My correspondent mentions the *ground-wind* being easterly, but up aloft it was probably north-west, and the migrants would only drop into the opposing current as they neared the coast.

For the past four months an extraordinary number of Brush Wattle-Birds (*Anellobia mellivora*) has made a home in the township of Devonport and vicinity. In these few months I have seen far more of the species than in all the previous years which I have lived in Tasmania, and its appearance in such profusion seems to point to the long, warm summer of 1919-20 as having been an exceptionally favourable one for nesting and subsequent development. The blue gums which border some of the gardens along the road in which I live are alive with the birds; the same may be said of the flowering lucerne trees, whose white, leguminous blossoms are in great favour for the nectar with which they abound. The calls of the "Mock-Wattles" (as the boys call the *Anellobia*) have been a source of great amusement

during the winter and spring. One, which resides in some blue gums passed by me every day, salutes me with "Come up, oh do! Come up, oh do! Kai, kai, kai!" the latter phrasing reminding us of the Maoris' call to food—"Haeremai, kai, kai." Another of the birds, in a friend's garden, calls out frequently, "Cycles go quick, quick, quick!" There is also a single guttural note, "Kwok," much like the well-known sound made by the Yellow Wattle-Bird (*A. inauris*); this is varied by "Kok, kok, kwee, kwee, kwee," and occasionally by a much softer "Too-tee, too-tee, too-tee," apparently a courting note. There is infinite variety of tone, and some of the phrases, such as the first and second cited above, appear to belong to individuals only. I am in great hopes that some of the Brush Wattle-Birds will nest in the trees about the town, as numbers still remain with us, and are evidently courting; they are most entertaining visitors, owing to being in constant movement and almost constant voice. Numbers of White-bearded Honey-eaters (*Melioris novæ-hollandiæ*) were with us when the Anellobias arrived, and at first disputed vigorously the right of possession with the larger birds; but after a great deal of scolding and chasing the White-beards were eventually routed, and have betaken themselves to "fresh woods and pastures new."

While spending a few days at Table Cape, North-West Tasmania, in the early summer (November) of last year, I noticed a small party of half a dozen of the Little Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus mentalis*) feeding in the gums which border the River Inglis. They were flying from tree to tree at no great height, searching the foliage for insects. The morning was beautifully fine and sunny, with scarcely any breeze, and remained so during my stay. The trees in which the birds were observed were of the white or "manna" species (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). Numbers of our ordinary Cuckoo-Shrike (*G. parvirostris*) frequent the Table Cape district, but this was the only lot of the smaller species which I saw, and on the single occasion only.

Spine-tailed Swifts have been seen once only this season in the Devonport district, on 2nd January this year, when, at 7.30 p.m., a considerable number passed over at varying heights from N.W. towards S.E., or inland. There had been an electrical disturbance, with heavy rain, on the previous evening.

Native Birds in Captivity.

BY EDITH M. JONES, HARRIS PARK.

IN the April issue of *The Emu* you mention a case occurring in the Melbourne Zoological Gardens of a Black Duck and a Muscovy Duck producing hybrid offspring. At Umbercollie station, 7 miles out of Goondiwindi (Qld.), there was a deep hole of water just in front of the house, surrounded by sedges and tall grasses, where