

this family. The Grey Butcher-bird (*C. torquatus cinereus*) is the island form, and, like its fellows, it is an arrant robber and a gourmand. It burgles in the daytime, going off with the young of any parents it can intimidate. The lovable part of the bird is its rich voice, calling "tel-e-fo, telefo, fo-fo-fo," and its "musical at home." The last, and amongst the best, of useful birds in Tasmania is the Lesser White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).

The valley of the Derwent and adjacent hills also need all such birds for economic purposes. We find in this valley, comparatively healthy and cold, that Magpies are seldom at any time numerous. In the great valley along one flank of Rumney Range I have this season found nesting no less than fifteen of the twenty-five birds peculiar to Tasmania: mostly insect-eating birds. Two years from now, the timber of this valley, most unfortunately, will be cut out, and the birds dispersed.

This valley is one of the finest for fruitgrowers, and many pests need more of the birds to keep the safety line of balance. If the birds are not encouraged to multiply, not to speak of discouraged, the cost of suppressing the pests will be infinitely heavier, and not successful. The growers of the Derwent Valley know already what it means, and the most intelligent of them realise that no spray is equal to the value of the presence of Quail and most of the smaller birds.

---

**The Birds of the Camp-out.**— May I be permitted to state that, from my experience in the swamps around the Scottsdale district, I should say the bird heard calling under heading of *Porsana fluminea* (*Emu*, Vol. XXIII., p. 200), and noted by Messrs. Parsons and McGilp, would more likely be the Spotless Crake (*Porsana plumbea*). I am astonished that they have not listed this bird, which is strongly represented in that district. The calls of the two Crakes are almost, if not quite, identical, when disturbed near the nest, or when one mate gives the alarm signal to warn his partner. I waded and explored "acres" of every description of swamp in that locality to ascertain whether the Australian Spotted Crake (*P. fluminea*) were present, yet never found it. I came to the conclusion that this species prefers brackish water localities. It would be interesting if some ornithologist should later come across this bird in that habitat. The pair of Emu-wrens (*Stipiturus malachurus*) mentioned in the same paper was evidently preparing the second nest. Most of the Emu-wrens in that part of the country have the first nest well under way in September.—(Miss) J. A. FLETCHER, R.A.O.U., "Lyeltya," Eaglehawk Neck (Tas.), 8/3/24.