

from Yeppoon, and ten miles inland. For the most part it kept to the scrubs or the scrubby margins of creeks, but occasionally it would venture into open forest country. Then its song could be heard at the same time as that of the White-throated species. A third nest found was built in a scrub-bush near a creek. Here, again, the remarkable hood was pronounced; and here, too, the birds were consistent in lacking any trace of a dark throat. Prompted by the Yeppoon experience, I removed the two eggs from this nest—there was no wasps' nest nearby—and, sure enough, found one of them to be the dark-bronze egg of a Bronze Cuckoo. Then Mr. Barnard and I secured a pair of the birds, each of which came readily to a call. Examination left no doubt that they were fully mature.

Comparison with Mathews' plate persuaded us that these specimens represented a new species—an opinion shared by Mr. Tom Iredale (who was associated with Mathews in his great work), when shown the skins at the Australian Museum, Sydney. But we both "suffered a recovery" on comparing the "new" birds with the Ramsay types of *flavida*. They agree almost precisely, the only difference being that the latest skins are slightly paler on the upper surface. This factor is probably due to the haunts of the southern bird being less dense than those of the Cardwell *flavida*, and is not, in my opinion, a sufficiently substantial basis even for a sub-species.

But there can now be no doubt whatever as to the specific validity of the Fairy Warbler. Has it been consistently working southwards since its far-off separation from the Black-throated Warblers of the tropics? Or, conversely, is the dark throat a more recent development, showing that after the bird-waves of ages ago had subsided, the ripples returned northward—the throat-colour deepening under the influence of distance, time, and depth of vegetation, and reaching its fullest strength with birds in the scrap of land that is now the Aru Islands?

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**The Australian Darter.**—It is generally supposed that the Australian Darter is a fish-eating bird, and one having come to our little lake at Stawell, it was not long before it was shot. It fell to my lot to get it and mount it. I made a careful examination of the contents of the stomach, and to my surprise, there was not the least trace of fish of any description. The stomach contained only a number of worms, and about a tablespoonful of a moss which grows on the bottom of the lake. As fish abound in the lake, this was very remarkable, for the Darter could easily have caught them. Is the serrated bill used for cropping the moss, of which the Swans here are very fond? It is possible that the Darter is not a fish-eating bird (certainly this bird was not). Perhaps some of our readers may throw some light on this question.—J. A. HILL, R.A.O.U., Stawell, Vic.