

**The Whiskered Tern.**—On 7th November, while travelling from Hamilton to Macarthur, we passed a paddock which was being ploughed. A flock of about 300 Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias leucopareia*) was hovering over the newly-turned soil. Gently flapping into the wind, they worked gradually along the furrows, now hovering with head bent down, now dropping to earth to secure a titbit, now resuming their leisured progress until the end of the furrow was reached. Then up they soared and back to the other end to start again. The bolder spirits, eager to have first chance at whatever the plough might uncover, followed about ten or twelve yards behind the team. Watching with the aid of field glasses as the dense column of birds neared us, we agreed that it was a sight well worth seeing. What they were eating, grubs or worms, we did not ascertain, but there must have been enough for all, as they were still there when we repassed the spot some six hours later.—C. SULLIVAN, M.B., B.S., Warrnambool.

\* \* \*

**Frigate-Bird Catching Its Own Food.**—Mr. A. W. Walsh when cruising off the island of New Georgia (British Solomons) saw a "Long Tom" (a species of Garfish) suddenly shoot out of the sea, and go slithering along the top, evidently propelled by its tail, which was still in the water. The fish was pursued by a porpoise. A Frigate-Bird swooped down at the fugitive, which dived to escape this new enemy, but almost immediately it had to come to the surface again in its endeavours to get away from the menace below. This happened three times and on the last occasion the bird picked up the unfortunate "gar" and swallowed it.—Communicated by A. S. L. LONG, C.M.Z.S., Taronga Zoological Park, Sydney.

---

## Reviews

[Henry, G. M., and Waite, W. E. Coloured plates of the birds of Ceylon, by G. M. Henry, with a short description of each bird by W. E. Waite, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U.—Parts I.-III. Parts I.-II. now issued, obtainable from the Director, Colombo Museum, or Messrs. Dulau & Co., 32 Old Bond Street, London. Part III. to be issued in November, 1929. Price of each part, £1/10/-.]

The second part of this work has been received from the Director of the Colombo Museum. While the sixteen plates it contains are, as in the first part (reviewed in

*The Emu* of 1st April, 1929), in no systematic arrangement, the publication is a complete work in itself. Of universal interest to all ornithologists, Australians perhaps would be most attracted by the plates of the Ceylon Streaked Fantail-Warbler, *Cisticola juncidis omalura* (Blyth), and the Ceylon Jungle Nightjar, *Caprimulgus indicus kelaarti* (Blyth). Both of these birds bear a distinct resemblance in form and habits to the corresponding Australian species. Amongst others portrayed are the Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dissemurus paradiseus ceylonensis*), the Ceylon Bustard Quail (*Turnix suscitator leggei*), and the Ceylon Munia (*Uroloncha kelaarti*), peculiar to the hilly districts of the island.

Part III., which will conclude the series, will be issued in November of this year. It is earnestly desired that those responsible for this most valuable, exact, and erudite contribution to ornithological art and science will not be forced by any reason or circumstance to leave the work at three parts, even though those already published are excellent tributes to the skill and science of the artists. It is to be hoped that they will continue until they have given to ornithologists a complete pictorial record of the birds of Ceylon.

---

## News and Notes

In view of the possible publication of a list of members of the Union in the near future, members are asked to notify the Hon. Secretary immediately of any change or anticipated change of address, in order that the list might be as complete and up-to-date as possible.

A quotation has been obtained for making cases for and binding *The Emu*. Cases in a light green cloth with the design of the Emu on the front in gold are available at the following rates:—Binding: 10 vols., 8/- per vol.; 20 vols., 7/- per vol. Cases only: 10 vols., 3/6 each; 20 vols., 2/6 each. Members desirous of having volumes bound should communicate with the Hon. Secretary at once so that advantage may be taken of the cheaper rates.

---

Many contributors to *The Emu* still use old scientific and vernacular names, which entail a great deal of editorial correction. Members are again reminded of *The Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia* (2nd Edition), 1926, price 12/6, which gives the correct nomenclature in addition to much other valuable information connected with the Australian avifauna.