

In November of last year I saw a sitting bird shading some well-grown young ones by spreading her wings over the nest. Hoping to frighten the young ones out I threw up a stick. Instantly the mother uttered the wailing cry and immediately other similar notes arose in the timber, and about a dozen birds quickly appeared.

In 1927 and 1928 the Choughs, as a flock, deserted the school-ground about the middle of November, and did not return until about the end of the following March. On 12th April of this year thirty five birds were counted at the one time feeding on and around our bird table. This is placed about fifteen feet from two large windows, and the scholars and I have many "close-ups" of these interesting creatures.

At Barker's Creek School the whole life history of the Chough could be recorded by a cinema operator without any great difficulty.

Movements of Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—On coming to Milingimbi, North Australia, I was surprised to observe the great numbers of Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) which are to be found here during the dry season (April to December). During that time they are here in hundreds, but I was interested to notice that with the approach of the wet season their numbers decrease until during January, February and March not one is to be seen, the birds having all departed southwards. This year (1929) the last lingerers were two birds observed on January 3, while the first arrivals after the "wet" were seen on April 8, and consisted of two males and one female. By the middle of the month Magpie-Larks were here in full strength again. Is there any record of the extent of their migration? What, I wonder, is their northern limit during the tropical rainy season? How far do they journey during the short three months of their absence from this coastal district?—T. THEODOR WEBB, R.A.O.U.

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Sale of a Great Auk.—At a recent sale of the collection of the ornithological specimens of the late Mr. J. B. Nicholls, F.Z.S., conducted at Steven's auction rooms, a fine stuffed specimen of the Great Auk (*Alca impennes*) was purchased for the high sum of £660 by Mr. W. F. H. Rosenberg, the well-known naturalist, of 57 Haverstock Hill. The bird had originally been bought, together with an egg, by the late Robt. Champley in Mecklenberg about 1860. After the death of the owner the bird and egg were again offered at auction in 1902, when Mr. Nicholls bought the bird for £315, and the egg went to Mr. W. Stirling, of Fairburn, for £252.—D. DICKSON, R.A.O.U., Melb.