

9. Territory.—This has received little attention as yet in Australia. Nicholson's *How Birds Live* and Howard's *Territory in Bird Life* give the latest theories in this very interesting branch of bird-study.

10. Migration.—Some classification of migrants is necessary. Mrs. Perrine Moncrieff gives one in *The Emu*, Vol. XXVIII., p. 309, in connection with her paper on the "Migration of N.Z. Birds."

11. Song.—Theories constantly change as to the origin and purpose of bird-song, but disregarding these they can be classified as follows:—(a) Song. This can best be defined by example, as the morning song of the Magpies (*Gymnorhina* spp.) and the whistling of the Grey Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) in spring. (b) Sub-song. The churring notes of the Little Grassbird (*Megalurus gramineus*) are a good example of this. This is quite distinct from the mournful piping of the true song. (c) Calls. These are uttered in times of danger, etc., and are frequently a clue to identification.

12. Food.—This is a branch of bird-study of importance in agriculture and forestry, and investigation will probably be carried by departments of these.

13. Moults.

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## Stray Feathers

**Late Broods.**—This morning (May 22, 1930) I heard the shrill insistent squeaking of young "Mickys" or Noisy Miners (*Myzantha melanocephala*), and on going to investigate found two young birds, evidently not long out of the nest, sitting close together on a low branch and being fed every minute or two by both parents with caterpillars and other food. On seeing me the parent birds scolded harshly and loudly, and instantly both the young ones were silent and still. After a minute one began gently cheeping and immediately the parent called to it, evidently an adjuration to it to be quiet, which it certainly was until I went away.

May 31.—This morning I again heard the sharp notes of young birds, and found two young Honeyeaters flying about among clumps of mistletoe and feeding on the flowers. They flew considerable distances, always keeping together and cheeping continuously; and then I saw them squat beside each other fluttering their wings and squeaking loudly. Then up flew a beautiful male Scarlet Honeyeater (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*) and fed them both. He fed them three times in ten minutes, and between times they sucked honey from the flowers themselves.

On May 20, 1930, I had found a pair of Banded or Double-bar Finches (*Steganopleura bichenovii*) building a nest in

a hanging bunch of leaves on a gum tree; they were carrying up long grasses, some brown and some green, and I saw one of them breaking off the fine dead twigs of a tea-tree and taking them up to the nest.—E. COMRIE-SMITH,

## Correspondence

A letter has been received by the Union from the Commonwealth Railways relating to concession fares to scientific parties and requesting that such concessions be notified to members. By an agreement between States and Commonwealth Railways, ornithologists and other scientists are enabled to visit Central Australia, the Nullarbor Plain and other territory traversed by railways of the Commonwealth at two-thirds fare. The minimum number required to obtain advantage of the reduced fare is six from any one State, and it is necessary to furnish the Railways Department with a certificate from the Hon. Secretary that the party is composed of accredited members. Further particulars are obtainable from the Publicity Officer, Commonwealth Railways, 150 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, Vic.

## Library Notes

The following publications have been received since the issue of the April part (Vol. XXIX., Part 4):—

*The Auk*, Vol. XLVII., No. 2.

*The Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. VIII., Nos. 3, 4 and 5.

*The Victorian Naturalist*, Vol. XLVI., No. 12. Vol. XLVII., Nos. 1 and 2.

*Proceedings of the Linnean Society of N.S.W.*, Vol. LV., Parts 1 and 2 (Nos. 227 and 228).

*Bird Notes and News*, Vol. XII., Nos. 2-8 and Index. Vol. XIII., Nos. 5-8. All from Mr. F. L. Berney, R.A.O.U.

*Boletín del Ministerio de Agricultura de la Nación*—Argentine Republic, Vol. XXVIII., No. 4.

*Bird-Lore*, Vol. XXXII., Nos. 1 and 2. Official Organ of the Audubon Societies, U.S.A.

*South Australian Ornithologist*, Vol. X., Part 6.

*The Ibis*, Vol. VI., No. 2.

*The Condor*, Vol. XXXII., No. 2.

*Aquila*—the Organ of the Royal Hungarian Institute of Ornithology, Vols. XXXIV. and XXXV.

*Field Museum of Natural History*, Publication No. 256—Annual Report; Publication No. 272—Description of Five New Indo-Chinese Birds; also an outline of the work of the Museum among schools entitled "Field Museum and the Child."

*American Game*, Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association, February-March, 1930.