

a bird to be either wholly good or bad, whereas, as in human beings, they are mostly made up of a mixture of both.

With regard to the Kea, it is not so necessary to give a record of its stomach contents as it is to establish proof whether it migrates from one range to another. About the Franz Josef Glacier, where there are no sheep-runs, Keas are an asset, for they amuse tourists. They cannot, however, be protected as their admirers would wish, if they leave the Glacier at certain seasons of the year and migrate to the vicinity of the Canterbury Plains, where temptation might prove too strong. Mr. Haynes, of the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, has observed that the plumage of Keas depends largely on the locality in the South Island from whence they are obtained. The richest and deepest green birds occur on the West Coast, and the lightest in colour on the East Coast. This rather points to the fact that they do not migrate, but the question can never be settled satisfactorily until Keas are banded and their movements ascertained.

Until such a step is taken and a scientific review of introduced birds in New Zealand has been made, the writer is of the opinion that the gospel of giving a bird the benefit of the doubt should be preached. If they do harm they must suffer, but until they have had a fair trial they should not be condemned on hearsay. They have already such a bad reputation that if their utility is established, it will take years to efface the legend of their wickedness.

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**Dollar Birds in Southern Victoria.**—Whilst looking up our old friends along the Diamond Creek, at Eltham, on Sunday, November 2, our attention was arrested by a peculiar low call. Looking low and high, we discovered a pair of Dollar Birds (*Eurystomus orientalis*) perched on an old dead branch at the top of a tall eucalypt. It is interesting to note that, whereas the late G. A. Keartland, of Melbourne, tells us "the birds take it in turns to dart off after insects, and return to the perch," this pair acted differently—only one did the hunting, and returned each time to feed its mate, which remained in the perch until both moved off together to another high, dead branch, when the same thing occurred again and again. After one of the returns, when the dainty morsel had been passed over and duly enjoyed, the hunter paraded, and showed himself off by arching his neck, ruffling out his neck feathers, bobbing and curtsying, to the accompaniment of low, gruff calls. Possibly these birds flew south, ahead of the dust storm which enveloped us the following day.—E. CAMPBELL, R.A.O.U.; D. H. NICHOLAS, R.A.O.U.