

from the public in the first instance and then leave the scientific tabulation of this data, as well as the scientific research work, to the skilled biologist.

To obtain the desired data it would be necessary for those persons who wish to take or collect any natural history object to be officially permitted to do so under the authority of a permit and with the obligation of filling in a schedule of what has been taken by them. This action would clearly show where Nature was becoming unbalanced and needed biological control to restore it. At present most of our contentions regarding the decrease or increase of any creature or plant is based on conjecture, which is misleading. Are we still to use conjecture or to be possessed of facts? Although magnificent work has been and is still being done by the Commonwealth Government through the medium of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and some individual biologists employed by the State Governments, many more biologists are required, and their united efforts should add considerably to the wealth of Australia.

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**Do Birds Visit?**—A quaint incident happened me recently, at Tambourine Mountain, Queensland. I sat watching a little Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*) feeding her young. The nest was only a couple of feet from the ground, in a thorny bush. Twice the mother brought food to the nestlings—the third time she was closely followed by the hen bird of a Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*), which perched on a twig beside the nest, and waited until the Thornbill fed the young birds again. The Thornbill then left the nest, and perched close by, while the Whistler flew to the nest, clung to the side, and put her head inside, evidently having a look at the new brood. It seemed as though the Thornbill brought a neighbour to have a look at her offspring.—L. M. MAYO, R.A.O.U., South Brisbane.

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**Bird Feeding at Night.**—About a fortnight ago I was walking through the Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne, at 8.30 o'clock in the evening. It was very sultry, and rain had fallen during the afternoon. The gardens were illuminated here and there by powerful electric lights set on top of massive iron posts each ten feet high, and about the lights were gathered innumerable insects, beetles and moths. I was surprised to find a Willy Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) busily engaged catching the insects just as though it were broad daylight. I cannot say how long the bird had been thus engaged before I arrived, but when I departed half an hour later she was just as busy as when I first saw her.—N. J. FAVALORO, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.