

accustomed to seeing them previously low down, skimming the reeds and the areas of gorse, rarely flying higher than the tops of average-sized trees, the sight of them far up in the sky was most unusual so far as I was concerned. Hand in hand with this habit of high flying goes a propensity for what is apparently some sort of play, the birds performing extraordinary evolutions above their feeding grounds, falling, gliding, soaring with great ability and calling loudly the while. In this connection it might be interesting to give an extract from a note-book concerning a visit which I made one spring to a thickly-populated bird swamp in Tasmania. It refers particularly to the display of the Harrier:—

"The aerial evolutions of these Hawks over the open space of the lake attracted our attention. I was not a little surprised to see them high in the sky, soaring, falling, twisting and turning, and resembling a number of flies. Whatever the cause, the performance was fine for us to watch, and we lay full length on the slope of the lake shore the better to see it. With the speed of a bolt from the sky a bird would dive headlong towards the expanse of rushes below, and when about half-way down, as if thinking it had exceeded the limit of respectable speed, would level out and in a few seconds, impelled by nothing but the momentum it had gained by the drop, shoot into the sky for 100 feet or so whence it had come. When its upward speed slackened it would remain poised for an instant, and slowly turning its head towards the earth, continue its giddy dive, only to repeat the swing and ascent again and again, till it reached the swamp beneath and landed in the thickness of the reed some distance from shore. Everywhere we looked the birds were engaged in this curious performance, and their shrill cries, uttered only on the upward flight after each great drop, came clearly to our ears. Harriers were continually rising from all parts of the lake to fill the places in the sky vacated by those just landed, and so the game went on all day till the sun got down towards the hills."

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On July 11, 1932, before Mr. Shepherd, S.M., Robert Ranage was charged under the Birds and Animals Protection Act with having in his possession, at the Sydney Markets, protected birds. Ranage pleaded that the birds were English Skylarks and were bred in his aviaries; however, they proved to be Australian Pipits or Ground-Larks (*Anthus australis*). The magistrate made a close inspection of the birds which the press reported on as "One Beak to Another." The charge was found proved but the defendant was discharged without costs under Section 556 (A) of the Crimes Act.