

The term Lyretail is used for the Lyrebird, but the substitute name will probably not supplant the old name.—C.E.B.

Library Notes

The following have been received into the library:—

Australian Science Abstracts, Vol. xiv, No. 3.

Annals of the Transvaal Museum, Vol. xvii, part 1; Vol. xviii, part 1.

El Hornero, Vol. vi, No. 1.

The Condor, Vol. xxxvii, No. 5.

The Smithsonian Institution—Annual Report of the Board of Regents to June, 1933.

The Avicultural Magazine, Vol. xiii, Nos. 9 and 10.

The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. xlvii, No. 3. Contains "Seasonal Sex Characters in Birds and their Hormonal Control," by Emil Witschi.

The Victorian Naturalist, Vol. lii, Nos. 6 and 8.

The Auk, Vol. lii, No. 4.

The South Australian Ornithologist, Vol. xiii, Part 4. Contains "A New Record for South Australia"—*Puffinus griseus* at Encounter Bay.

See also several publications reviewed in this part.

Thrushes' Nest in Fern Basket.—A pair of Grey Thrushes (*Colluricincla harmonica*) selected as a nesting site a fern basket hanging in the front porch of the house of a friend of mine, who took a great interest in their building activities. The birds first wedged some substantial pieces of bark down the side of the basket as a support and protection. Eventually three eggs were hatched. The head of one of the young birds can be seen in the accompanying photograph.—N. L. ROBERTS, Homebush, N.S.W., 9/10/35.

Imprisoned Starling.—In order to provide another half-page illustration to accompany the Thrushes' nest opposite I have included another "domestic" photograph. Starlings nested under the eaves of my home and a young bird apparently wandered from the nest and fell down between the two courses of a double brick wall. One of its parents, hearing its calls, attracted it, from the outside, to a ventilator to which, to the detriment of seedlings planted nearby, it made constant trips with food, apparently all insects. The picture shows the parent at the ventilator through the interstices of which the young bird has just been fed. It was intended to release it but apparently the bird scrambled up again to the roof for it was heard later calling from a higher position.—C. E. BRYANT, Nth. Balwyn, Vic., 10/12/35.

English Birds.—For the past three years or so there have been a few pairs of English Blackbirds in the district, but this spring there has been a sudden and great increase in

number: almost every shrubbery has its pair, and down the main road into the town it is delightful to hear the songs of the males from the summits of wireless-poles or the tops of tall pine-trees. They are certainly the best songsters we have in this district, and I shall hope to see them increase still further.* Half a dozen pairs of Song-Thrushes have been liberated in the south, and it would be a good thing if a few pairs were placed on this coast also, as the town-gardens are infested with "shellbacks." It will take a long time for the Thrushes to work up this way from the south of the Island; I knew of Blackbirds' nests in the neighbourhood of Launceston twenty years ago, yet it is only within the past three years they have arrived in this locality, about sixty-two miles from Launceston. If we could get rid of the pestilent Starlings and replace them with the Song-Thrush, it would be a fine thing for the town. H. STUART DOVE, West Devonport, Tasmania, 6 11 35.

*The opinion of the 1932 Congress in Hobart was that Blackbirds should be discouraged in Tasmania.—Ed.

Mallee Notes.—During September, 1935, a further search of the district where the Black-throated Whippbird (*Pso-phodes nigrogularis*) was located by Messrs. Ross, Howe and Bunn was made by the two first-named, together with A. H. Chisholm, J. N. McGilp, F. E. Parsons and myself. Although very large areas of country suitable for this bird were searched, including the very localities where the birds had been seen previously, neither sight nor sound of the species was obtained over a period of three weeks, nor had the bird been seen or heard by local residents.

Many other rare or interesting species, however, were seen, and many interesting notes obtained. The genus *Corvus* was found to have two representatives in the district—*C. coronoides*, in the open wheat-fields, and the Little Crow (*C. bennetti*), in the scrub. One nest of the latter, built in a tall mallee in thick scrub, contained six eggs, which were apparently laid on successive days, since when first visited on September 18 there were no eggs in the nest, while all the eggs were there on a second visit on September 25.

A few years ago the Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) was considered a novelty in the district, but recently they have been becoming quite plentiful, and clumps of scrub pine along the roads or on the blocks sheltered large numbers of them. Five nests containing eggs were found, while other nests contained young in all stages of growth. Apparently the clearing of the country (probably on account of the easily-obtained grain for food) has been helpful to the increase of this species. One patch of tall scrub containing much scrub pine and broom bush must have contained some hundreds of both this species and the Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*).—R. S. MILLER, Melbourne, 20/12/35.