

**Q. gibberifrons.** Grey Teal.—The most abundant Duck of the estuary, and present throughout the year, often in very great numbers. Carter, however, regards this species as being essentially a fresh-water Duck and implies that it is the Chestnut Teal which favours salt water (*The Ibis*, 1910, p. 656).

**Spatula rhynchotis.** Blue-winged Shoveler.—Half-a-dozen appeared at the Point on May 31 and remained until June 29. When roosting on the sandspit with the Grey Teal they could be readily picked out by their bright chestnut or salmon-coloured feet, compared with the dusky feet of the Teal.

**Biziura lobata.** Musk Duck.—This Duck frequents estuaries, but curiously enough none was seen near the Point, though occasionally they appear in the vicinity of the Causeway and Burswood Island. The species is found in great numbers on Peel's Inlet, Mandurah, where the local people levy heavy toll on them, salting down large supplies for food.

**Circus approximans.** Swamp-Harrier.—Occasionally a specimen appears. It is very abundant on the Mandurah estuaries.

**Haliaetus leucogaster.** White-bellied Sea-Eagle. Recorded as an occasional visitor by Alexander.

**Haliastur sphenurus.** Whistling Eagle.—Single birds are often to be seen soaring over the Point, giving vent to their characteristic calls. There is usually some scurrying among the birds assembled on the sand-spit when the Eagle appears, but no undue nervousness, and I have never seen a bird attacked.

**Pandion leucocephalus.** Osprey.—Also recorded as an occasional visitor by Alexander.

**Megalurus gramineus.** Little Grass-bird.—There is now no suitable habitat for this bird at Pelican Point. It is still fairly common among the samphires at Burswood Island, and is frequently flushed from the reed-beds fringing the shore at Lucky Bay.

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**The Swift Parrot.**—The swiftly-flying, brightly-coloured Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) is particularly numerous in and around Bendigo, Victoria, at present. Although a few visit us each year, I am surprised that they are so numerous, when we are experiencing one of the worst droughts in the history of the district. In spite of the drought, the eucalypts appear to be flowering as well as usual.

The first intimation that the birds had arrived came from a friend who said that he had seen a flock of green Parrots, with red on their shoulders and under-wings, which flew more swiftly than the Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta*), and from his description I recognized them as Swift Parrots. Then on mentioning the matter to Mr. Marc Cohn, he told me that he had seen several flocks—one of twenty or more birds. As we conversed, a pair flew into a street tree in front of us. At the time of writing they can be seen in almost every flowering street tree.

What brings them here in this drought year? Does it portend a wet year to follow? It would be interesting to know if they are less numerous in Tasmania this year. —JOHN C. IPSEN, Bendigo, Vic., 5/5/38.