

In the field the white rump stands out conspicuously when the bird is in flight and provides a field-key to the identification of the species. The forked tail, on the other hand, is not always noticeable in flight, but as the tail is spread preparatory to alighting and when the bird is moving about the ground it is a prominent feature.

In my limited experience of the species I have usually found them fairly easy to approach, in fact on a couple of occasions I have followed quietly some ten yards behind them for a considerable time as they moved about feeding on the ground. I do remember once, however, walking for upwards of a mile in the blazing sun trying, without success, to get a close view of a pair I put up from the roadside on a big box-flat adjacent to the river Darling. This pair was very timid and at no time allowed me to approach closer than 100 yards. They flew repeatedly from ground to tree then to the ground again in a most aggravating manner, and finally disappeared into the distance across the other side of the river. Apparently, like most other birds, individuals vary somewhat in character.

The Black-shouldered Kite in Western Australia.—In *The Emu*, vol. 43, p. 294, H. M. Whittell refers to existing records of the species in this State. He overlooks my record in 1939 (*Emu*, vol. 38, p. 462) in the Barlee Range of three pairs of nesting birds. The bird is quite unmistakable on the wing, the only bird likely to cause confusion being the Letter-winged Kite, which, as far as I know, has never been recorded from this State. Whittell's reference to the nesting site being almost concealed in the leafy top of the tree, corresponds with my experience. The only nests I have found would not have been seen but for my watching the birds.

I had a single bird visit my farm at Coolup numerous times during 1943, from April to August inclusive. It was often seen hovering over a patch of millet in a swamp where there were plenty of mice. It is noted for its partiality to rats and mice, but a pigeon does not go amiss—as I mentioned in *The Emu*. In this particular case I saw it kill the pigeon coming into water and try to carry it away. It found the weight too great and could not make height, and had to come to earth a short distance away. I am surprised that there are not more records from the Eastern Goldfields, as I understand it has been seen in that area over the last three years. It is a matter for regret that there are not more published records of the movements of the species throughout Australia.—ANGUS ROBINSON, Coolup, W.A., 2/6/44.