

cuckoos, with the Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike and the Dusky Wood-Swallow last. As the first half of September is one of my vacation periods, largely given up to bird-observing, I think my first records for each species may be taken as an accurate indication of the actual arrival dates. Departure dates are, of course, not so easy to fix. I am inclined to think that many individuals of the three species of cuckoos leave first. With this possible variation the order of departure seems roughly to repeat that of arrival.

The status of the Swamp Hawk (*Circus approximans*) as a migrant seems doubtful. Some Tasmanian observers appear to regard it as a migrant as it disappears from their districts in winter. In the Devonport district the numbers of this species certainly decrease in winter, but there are always a few birds to be seen. Personally, I would place the Swamp Hawk in the same class as the White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*) as a nomadic rather than a true migrant type. In 1942 there were large numbers of White-fronted Chats wintering at Port Sorell Point, east of Devonport, where they appeared to obtain an easy living on the fringes of the ponds and among the seaweed on the beaches. In the winter of 1943 I failed to record a single Chat in the area which had been so popular in the previous year. This is a typical experience with this species.

A Western Australian Grass Owl

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On June 16, 1944, Messrs. T. and L. Price, of Cranbrook, sent to the Museum an owl which they had picked up dead. On examination it was found that although a *Tyto* it differed from all the forms previously recorded from this State, and seemed to be related, more or less closely, to the Eastern Grass Owl, *Tyto longimembris walleri* Diggles, as described by G. M. Mathews in *The Birds of Australia*, vol. V, p. 398.

As that species was not represented in the Museum's collection, the Director of the Australian Museum, Sydney, was asked to send material for comparison, a request which was readily acceded to and for which I desire to express my thanks.

A comparison with the Sydney specimen, 0.3588 (sex not recorded), obtained at the Richmond River in August 1889 by W. T. Bailey, shows that, although the two birds obviously belong to the same species, there are differences which seem to justify subspecific rank for the Western Australian bird, which I accordingly describe as *Tyto longimembris maculosa* subsp. nov.

The Cranbrook specimen (A 5792), a female, has the crown and the back somewhat lighter than in the Richmond River skin (representative of *walleri*), but there is no difference in the size and distribution of the white spots. The facial disc and margin have a light chestnut wash instead of pure white with a creamy white edge, except above the eyes where the margin is brownish in both cases. The chest is a dull dirty buff, not a bright sandy buff as in the other bird, and the whole under surface is generally more heavily spotted. The under tail coverts are spotted, not immaculate. The under primary and secondary coverts and the edge of the wing are much more spotted. The tail is a clearer and brighter buff with four brown cross-bands, the terminal pair extending on to the white outer feathers which have rather extensive brown mottling on the outer tip and slight buffy areas near the shaft. In the New South Wales bird the outer feathers are almost pure white with a single narrow terminal band and faint indications of mottling at the tip.

Comparative Measurements in millimetres:

	W.A.	N.S.W.	Qld. ♂ ¹	N.T. ♀ ¹
Right Wing	317	329	} 315	330
Left Wing	315	322		
Tarsus	77	80	80	78
Tail	108	111	—	112
Culmen	37	37	24 ²	22 ²

1. From Mathews, *op. cit.*

2. The difference between these measurements and those of the Western Australian and New South Wales birds is probably due to the methods adopted in taking the measurements; mine were made from the base of the skull to the tip of the culmen.

Notes on the Pterylography of the Australian Raven

By ERHARD F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A.

Having discovered that the late Dr. J. A. Leach (*Emu*, vol. 14, p. 34, 1914) was in error when he implied that the Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), which he used to represent the genus *Corvus* when making comparisons with *Strepera*, has eleven secondaries, I have made a preliminary examination of the pterylography of the species. In view of the uncertain and scattered nature of the literature on the subject, it is considered advisable to publish the following data obtained from several specimens of the Australian Raven.

Wing feathers twenty, comprising ten primaries and ten secondaries. Formula for primaries, commencing to count at the proximal end of the manus: 7, 8, 6, 9, 5, 4, 3-10, 2, 1.