

distinction in the wild state is not conspicuous. The difficulty in making this comparison is heightened by the restless movements of the birds. And as for the relative amount of orange colour on the underparts, this seems to be worthless as a field diagnostic character, since the bird cannot be approached sufficiently close to get the view that is necessary to distinguish it, and, in any case, it is possible to confuse the intensity of colour with the yellowish tinge on the abdomen of *chrysostoma*.

J. H. Reed ('Sight Records: Some Waders and Others', in *The Emu*, vol. 40, pp. 354-357), who first located *chrysogaster* in the area, says it took him months of intermittent watching to satisfy himself completely that his identification was correct. "Even given ideal conditions, I found that the only really convincing feature is the vivid green of the back," he states.

On this observation Jones says—"Reed's comment on the back colour (the vivid green) as a reliable field identification feature is endorsed by me, but I do not regard it as the only convincing one. The call is particularly distinctive from the other three *Neophemas* I have seen in the field—*chrysostoma*, *elegans*, *pulchella*—and also its high flight. The bird has a certain colour brilliance in flight also that to me distinguishes it from the Blue-wing."

It is possible that in flocks of *chrysostoma* in Tasmania there may occasionally be found an odd pair of *chrysogaster*, their presence being overlooked in the predominance of the other species. The fact that Swindells found the two breeding relatively close together in the Bothwell district would indicate that even were the breeding localities separated—though in this instance only by a quarter of a mile—the birds might inhabit a common feeding area.

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Another Record of the White Quilled Pygmy-Goose.—The following extract from a diary of field items made in Central Queensland is dated June 1, 1944.

"These birds (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) were first seen on April 15, 1944, at the 'Woolwash' lagoon, Rockhampton, where on subsequent visits I have always found them present in numbers. On April 25, 1944, several large parties were put up, and a rough estimate was made at not less than 100 birds present. They usually stick to the more open water, and as yet have not been seen on the banks."

These geese were seen on several other lagoons in the vicinity of Rockhampton, in numbers ranging from two or three birds up to fifty. They were not seen elsewhere in such large numbers as on the 'Woolwash' lagoon, where their existence is well known by local bird students.—S. R. WHITE, Busselton, W.A., 6/12/44.