

settled into camp at Ravenshoe in May there were no Mynas within several miles. By December they were at the camp in large numbers, and local residents told us that wherever new ground was cleared, and new settlement made, the birds appeared almost at once.

REFERENCES

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2. N. W. Cayley. *What Bird is That?*—5th edition, 1935.
3. A. J. Campbell. *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*, 1900.
4. E. P. Ramsay. *Proc. Zoo. Soc. (London)*, Nov. 16, 1875.

A Note on the Australian Tree-Martin in New Zealand.—On April 2, 1947, a specimen of the Australian Tree-Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*) was sent to the Dominion Museum by Mr. S. G. Connolly, Spring Creek, Blenheim. In an accompanying note Mr. Connolly has written as follows—"I have seen this bird on at least four different occasions in the last ten years. On Saturday (29/3/47) there were six of them together, so I shot one. . . . It was shot in the Spring Creek district, Blenheim, which is about two miles from the sea."

Dr. Oliver in *New Zealand Birds*, 1930, p. 442, describes the Australian Tree-Martin as an occasional visitor and lists some nine localities where it has occurred, one of these being the Opawa River, Blenheim. Measurements of the specimen from Spring Creek are as follows—Length 130 mm.; bill 6; wing 105; tail 55; tarsus 11.

The specimen, as seen in the accompanying plate, was a little imperfect in the vicinity of the neck, where many of the feathers were shot away. It has been mounted in such a manner as to show well its several characters.

It now appears almost certain that this species is a recent arrival in New Zealand which is establishing itself in the country though no nests have so far been recorded. A process of natural distribution is being carried out. It is probable that over the centuries which have passed large numbers of Australian birds have arrived in New Zealand, and failed to discover a suitable environment in which to become established. With the clearing of the bush and the settlement of the country new types of environment have appeared, enabling not only the acclimatization of many introduced birds, but also providing the conditions necessary for the establishment of arrivals from Australia, carried by wind over three thousand miles of ocean or perhaps following some deliberate migratory instinct.—W. J. PHILLIPS, Dominion Museum, Wellington, N.Z., 16/5/47.