

reported by L. LeSouëf (*S.A. Orn.*, 8, 104, 1925) to perch on bullocks and cattle, and feed on ticks, in north-western Australia. Australian Crows (*Corvus cecilæ*) sometimes perch on sheep and cattle, whilst the imported Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) often perches on sheep.

Some birds, however, perch on animals to obtain hair, or fur, or wool for lining their nests. The following may be cited as examples: Willie Wagtail on sheep, cattle and horses; Black-chinned Honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*) on cattle; Brown-headed Honeyeater (*M. brevirostris*) on cattle and Koala (*Phascolarctus cinereus*); White-eared Honeyeater (*Meliphaga leucotis*) on cattle, horses and human beings; and Starling on sheep.—ERHARD F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 6/10/47.

Reviews

Vernaculars.—The discussion by Ludlow Griscom, in *The Wilson Bulletin*, vol. 59, no. 3, p. 131—‘Common Sense in Common Names’—is illustrative of difficulties, and very entertaining. It includes an attack on the psychosis that scientific names are too much for the amateur. If we are to revise vernacular names, as suggested elsewhere in this issue, we might give some consideration to abandoning some inappropriate and conflicting vernaculars in favour of scientific names used as common names. Who objects to Pitta, for example? In any case there is a lot to be said for the ‘tag’ of the late Dr. J. A. Leach that a name once given becomes merely a label—“Mr. Long is not necessarily a tall man.”—C.E.B.

Cuckoo’s and Fosterer’s Young reared Together.—An instance where the young of a Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) was reared without causing the destruction of the fosterer’s own young, is reported in *British Birds*, vol. 40, May 1947, p. 149, by R. E. Burton. The fosterer was a Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and the young Cuckoo was witnessed vainly attempting to tip one of the young Robins out of the nest. After losing its eviction urge it remained in the nest, but apparently dominating its companions, as it was fledged after the normal period of 20 days. The young Robins, however, of which there were four, were fledged 23 days after hatching, in contrast to the normal period of 12-14 or 15 days.—D.L.S.

Birds dropping Shellfish.—A paper entitled ‘Deposits of Shells transported by Birds,’ by C. Teichert and D. L. Serventy, *Amer. Journ. of Science*, vol. 245, May 1947, pp. 322-8, deals with shell deposits by sea-birds, chiefly, possibly exclusively, *Gabianus pacificus*. Records along southern Australian coasts of broken shells and opercula of mainly *Turbo* deal with often extensive deposits, even large enough to be mistaken for marine shell beds. Considering the quantity of material, the paucity of recorded observations of the birds in action is surprising.—C.E.B.

W.A. Gould League Notes.—The 1947-48 issue, under the title of ‘Bird Study for Bird Lovers,’ is designed to attract younger folk while having sufficient substance to interest adults. R.A.O.U. members are well to the fore as the principal contributors, but there are many shorter notes from school-children and members of bird-clubs that reflect the dual aspect of interest and desire to express it.—C.E.B.

Blue-breasted Wren in S.A.—Under this title C. E. Rix (*S.A. Orn.*, vol. 18, pt. 6, July (Sep.) 1947, p. 52) substantiates his and J. W. Mellor’s previous records of *Maturus pulcherrimus* on Eyre Peninsula.

Mack rejected Mellor's skins as being *pulcherrimus* and referred them to *assimilis*. In 1946 Rix collected a further specimen and confirmed the association with *pulcherrimus*. The species appears to inhabit the southern part of the peninsula, which has climatic and vegetation characteristics different from the lower rainfall northern portion. The blue-violet throat and breast in *pulcherrimus* are said to be diagnostic.

The establishment of the species extends the range considerably to the east. The author points out that Eyre Peninsula is the eastern limit of other Western Australian species, such as *Eopsaltria griseogularis* and *Colluricincla rufiventris*, to which might be added *Climacteris rufa*.—C.E.B.

News and Notes

R.A.O.U. MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on February 18, 1948, at the lecture hall, Public Library, Melbourne, when Mr. N. J. Favaloro will give an address on the food of birds.

R.A.O.U. CONFERENCE AND CAMP-OUT, 1948

The annual interstate conference and Camp-out will be held this year in Western Australia, for the first time since 1927. It is proposed that after the business meetings in Perth, the Camp-out be held in the Sharks Bay region, the centre of much interesting ornithological work in the past, from that of the celebrated French expeditions of the early part of the last century to the more recent investigations of Tom Carter and F. Lawson Whitlock. The date has not yet been finally fixed, but it will be earlier in the year than is usual for R.A.O.U. conferences—probably in September. Western Australian members headed by the President (Dr. D. L. Serventy), in association with various government departments, hope that this conference and Camp-out will stand out as a memorable one. Prospective participants from the other States are required to communicate with the Hon. General Secretary or State Secretary for Western Australia.

Correspondence

To the Editor,
Sir—

I should like to make the following comments on two matters in the July 1947 issue of *The Emu*.

1. The Possibility of Another New Australian Parrot, as described in Mr. A. J. Marshall's article. I should like to be bold enough to suggest that the black and red parrot (or cockatoo) of McLennan, MacGillivray and Marshall will eventually prove to be Pesquet's Parrot (*Psitttrichas fulgidus*, formerly *Dasyptilus pesqueti*), a New Guinea bird which has been known for over a century. Specimens of this bird have been exhibited in the Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney, for the last ten or twelve years, and when I last visited Sydney, in June 1946, a fine pair was still on exhibition. An excellent coloured plate of this bird, by Roland