

- Marshall, F. H. A., 1936. 'Sexual Periodicity and the Causes which Determine it.' Croonian Lecture *Philos. Trans. Roy. Soc., B.*, 226, pp. 423-56.
- Miyazaki, H., 1934. 'On the Relation of the Daily Period to the Sexual Maturity and Moulting of *Zosterops palpebrosa japonica*.' *Sci. Rep. Tôhoku Univ.*, Biol. ser., 9, pp. 183-203.
- Moreau, R. E., 1936. 'Breeding Seasons of Birds in East African Evergreen Forest.' *Proc. Zool. Soc., Lond.*, pp. 631-53.
- Nice, M. M., 1943. 'Studies on the Life History of the Song Sparrow; II: The Behaviour of the Song Sparrow and Other Passerines,' *Trans. Linn. Soc., N.Y.*, vol. 6, pp. 1-329.
- Nicholson, E. M., 1929. *How Birds Live*, 2nd ed.
- Noble, G. K., 1939. 'Symposium: The Individual and the Species,' *Auk*, vol. 56, p. 263.
- Robinson, Angus, 1946-47. 'Magpie-Larks—A Study in Behaviour,' *Emu*, vol. 46, p. 265.
- Rowan, W., 1931. *The Riddle of Migration*, Baltimore.
- Serventy, D. L., 1946. 'The Pituitary Gland and the Breeding Cycle,' *Western Australian Bird Notes*, no. 4.
- Strescman, Erwin, 1947. 'Baron von Pernau, Pioneer Student of Bird Behaviour,' *Auk*, vol. 64, pp. 35-52.
- Wolfson, A., 1941. 'Light versus Activity in the Regulation of the Sexual Cycle of Birds: The Role of the Hypothalamus.' *Condor*, 43, pp. 125-36.
- 1945, 'Role of the Pituitary, Fat Deposition, and Body Weight in Bird Migration,' *Condor*, 47, pp. 95-127.
- Wolstenholme, H., 1926. 'British and Australian Birds—a Comparison,' *Emu*, vol. 26, p. 122.

Display of Blue-billed Ducks.—On January 20, 1949, a pair of Blue-billed Ducks (*Oxyura australis*) was found on a small dam, heavily grown over with reeds, some five miles from Colac. With them were three young birds, approximately one week old, which kept close to the female and readily dived. Too close approach by the male caused the female to swim at him with neck outstretched. This is the first record of the species' nesting in this district.

I was able to watch this family from a distance of about 20 yards, looking down on to the water from above. The proximity of the female and young called forth in the male four types of behaviour:

- (i) Very short dives of one to two seconds' duration.
- (ii) 'Dab-preening' of each side of the breast with a very quick action of the bill.
- (iii) Bobbing the head. As the breast was raised quickly out of the water the head dropped, the bill sliding downwards and forwards.
- (iv) With tail erect, wings 'hunched' forwards and outwards, head low, bill close to the water, the male faced the female, uttering a low, soft, rattling note.

When alarmed, the male, with head and tail stiffly erect, moved slowly across the open water to the reeds.—A. GRAHAM BROWN, Colac, Vic., 24/2/49.