

the species previously "recorded for the Darling Downs" and how did it get to the area?—A. H. CHISHOLM, Sydney, N.S.W., 24/11/50.

Mynas on the Darling Downs.—On December 26, 1950, I observed one Myna about eight miles south of Toowoomba on the Warwick Road. On December 31, I noted a party of twenty birds feeding in a paddock on the Oakey Road, seven miles from Toowoomba. They were first recorded from Oakey in 1946.—PETER FORSTER, Toowoomba, Qld., 19/2/51.

News and Notes

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

In connection with the 1951 Annual Congress, it is proposed to hold an exhibition of bird photographs at the Kodak gallery in Collins Street, Melbourne. The exhibition will be opened on October 5 and will remain open for two weeks. Members are invited to send mounted prints for the exhibition, which is designed to interest the public in bird photography and the work of the Union generally. All material should be despatched so as to reach the Hon. General Secretary by September 10.

Photographs may be of any size but are required to be mounted on mounts not exceeding 20 inches in height or 16 inches in width. Two 'standard' sizes are 20 x 16 (wide) and 16 x 12 (wide). The exhibition is open to members of the Union and the subjects must be birds on the Australian and/or New Zealand lists irrespective of where the photographs are taken.

CORRECTION

Please note that line 22 on page 153 of *The Emu*, vol. 50, January 1951, should read—"In 1874, Bowdler Sharpe's work on the Diurnal Birds of." The line printed in its place properly belongs to line 13 on page 154, where it also appears correctly. A correction indicated for the latter line was set but apparently inadvertently first placed in the earlier line, and later in its correct position without remedying the mistake. Errors of this nature are beyond editorial control.

Reviews

Western Australian Ornithology.—In the December, 1950, issue of the *Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 2, no. 7, Mrs. Rica Erickson continues her detailed study of a group of Rufous Whistlers which she began in vol. 2, 1949, p. 10 of that journal. The present study ('Inheritance of Territory in Rufous Whistlers and Notes on Begging in Courtship by both Sexes,' p. 145) describes how in

two cases a large territory became shared in a subsequent season with the offspring of the original pair. Some of the original territory was also successfully claimed by invading birds. Two instances are described of a courting male bird begging and cheeping like a young bird when following a desired mate.

An observation of exceptional interest is reported by K. Sheard ('A Visit to the Monte Bello Islands,' p. 150) of the occurrence of Black-and-white Wrens (*Malurus leucopterus*) on Hermite and Sholl Islands, off the north-west coast. This bird has long been famous for being supposedly confined to two islands, Barrow and Dirk Hartog Islands, over 350 miles apart. He also adds another Pelican breeding station to the known W.A. list.

In the 'From Field and Study Section' there are short notes on the display of the Crested Bell-bird (E. H. Sedgwick), Smoker Parrots in Perth (W. R. Serventy), records of the White-backed Swallow in the south-west (E. L. Carthew and D. Reid), food of the Bustard (inventory of a stomach by R. P. McMillan, recording 150 caterpillars, 60 ground weevils and 35 millipedes), and inter-species relations in birds (Angus Robinson and D. L. Serventy). Mr. Robinson, referring to the attacks of one species of bird on another, suggests that the attacked species is usually a stranger to the district and unfamiliar to the local bird community.—D.L.S.

A Commemorative Bird Book.—It is a pleasant custom, more prevalent in Europe, particularly Germany, than with us, for an eminent scholar to be honoured on some important anniversary by a 'Festschrift' or, after death, by a memorial volume. Familiar to Australian ornithologists will be the memorial volumes to A. H. Garrod and W. A. Forbes, the volumes taking the form of their collected papers. Often, however, such publications are collections of essays by the friends and associates of the honoured person, such as was the outstanding Australian example, the Macleay Memorial Volume, 1893, in memory of the eminent patron of natural science, Sir William Macleay.

A group of ornithologists have recently combined in preparing a collection of 28 ornithological papers dedicated to Dr. Erwin Stresemann, the distinguished president of the German Ornithological Society, on the occasion of his 60th birthday. This volume, entitled *Ornithologie als Biologische Wissenschaft* was published by Carl Winter, Heidelberg, in 1949 at 18 DM (= £A2) and contains 291 pages, with a portrait of Dr. Stresemann. The papers are in English, French and German.

The contributors are from England, France, Holland, Finland, the U.S.A., Mexico, Brazil, as well as from Germany and Austria; there is no representative of Australia. The editors are Drs. E. Mayr and E. Schütz.

The book is divided into sections, with papers on evolution and systematics (nine items), embryology, behaviour studies (four papers, an outstanding one on the counting faculty among birds by Otto Koehler), ecology and functional anatomy (nine papers), parasitology, and migration studies (three papers, including one by Gustav Kramer describing a technique and some results of studying migratory restlessness in caged individuals of migratory species and determining the direction in which they have an urge to travel).

There are two papers which have a direct Australian interest. Dr. E. Mayr (pp. 55-60) discusses species formation and variation in the *Halcyon chloris* group of kingfishers. He points out that the mutually-exclusive distribution pattern of *H. chloris* and *H. sancta* in certain parts of their range suggested at first that the two forms might be members of one species. That this was not the case was proved by the co-existence of the two as breeding species on common ground in northern Australia. He had since demonstrated, moreover, that *H. sancta* stood nearer to another species, *H. australasia*, from

the Timor region. He postulated the origin of *H. sancta* as a comparatively recent invader into Australia from Timor. Another Australian species in this related complex was *H. pyrrhopygia*. One could assume that once a widespread super-species ranged from Timor to Polynesia and in the course of time the local populations differentiated into the following forms: *pyrrhopygia* (in Australia), *australasia* (Timor and neighbouring areas, with *sancta* as a derivative), *funebria* (North Molucca), *chloris* (from the Bismarck Archipelago to Tonga and the New Hebrides), *saurophaga* (north New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands), *cinnamomina* (Micronesia) and the *Todirhamphus* group (Samoa to the Marquesas and Tuamotus).

Dr. R. C. Murphy, in describing (pp. 89-91) a new species of petrel, *Pterodroma ultima* (type locality Oeno Island in the Tuamotus), admits that this is a remarkable circumstance at the present day in view of our wealth of knowledge of birds of this group. However he knew of the existence of this form for 20 years but has been able to find "no close resemblance to any other gadfly petrel that has ever come to my notice." The bird is a wholly dark petrel except for a mottled throat and scaled forehead, the legs being parti-coloured, black and flesh-white; wing, 280 mm., culmen, 30 mm. Almost 100 specimens were available for examination, collected from Rapa Island, the Austral group and the Tuamotus. It is apparently a surface nester.—D.L.S.

Notes on the Hoodwink.—Mr. M. F. A. Meiklejohn is to be complimented on running to earth and describing this most elusive species (*Dissimulatrix spuria*), *Bird Notes*, vol. XXIV, no. 3, p. 89. We assure him there is a race in the Antipodes: if the description "even more prone to imitate rare species when imitating another species" is a sufficient 'summary of characters' to satisfy the Code we would be inclined to dub it *stultissima*. For that matter there is also a local race, *obstinans*, of *Ornithoscoptes perferrens*.

We like the references to the 'false' attributes, the 'transects' from railway trains, the responsibility for the construction of old nests—they are of equal application here—and Mrs. Craik's detailed description to confirm her identification. We note with some surprise the omission of newspaper nature columns (especially where rewards are offered) as a typical habitat, calling for particular reference. We would also like to draw attention to the characteristic (suggesting faunal relationship with serpents and the basilisk) of mass-hypnotism of *O. p. obstinans* as recently instanced on the occasion of the local Hoodwink's imitating *Ninox connivens*.

Unfortunately it is often the observers who should more especially take this paper to heart who are the folk remaining smug and unable to laugh at it and themselves.—C.E.B.

Gould League Notes.—The New South Wales booklet (of the foregoing name) and the Victorian *The Bird Lover*, for 1950, both maintain the standard of former years. Members of this Union are well to the fore as contributors, which is as it should be, and in some instances it is possible to see their influence on youthful 'authors' and prize-winners. Colour plates add to the attractiveness of each booklet.

We feel that we would like to see a little more in the journals in the way of subtle propaganda: some suggestions that youthful bird observers might ultimately aspire to a more intense interest in ornithology.—C.E.B.

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