

were three simultaneous columns and practically every Tern on the marsh joined the spectacular display.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My indebtedness to Mr. J. N. Hobbs is obvious and I trust that Mr. Jim Watson feels that he did not get wet in vain. I must thank Dr. R. H. Anderson, of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, for the identification of marsh plants. Messrs. K. A. Hindwood and A. R. McGill supplied several references.

SUMMARY

Whiskered Terns bred in thousands in the eastern Riverina towards the end of 1955 after unusually heavy rains had caused considerable flooding of low-lying areas. This paper deals with locality records, nesting, relations with other species, roosting and display flight. It is suggested that the complete breeding cycle, from arrival to departure, need occupy no more than forty days.

REFERENCES

- 1900 Campbell, A. J. *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*.
 1914 North, A. J. *Nests and Eggs of Birds . . . in Australia and Tasmania*, vol. 4, part. 4.
 1921 Mathews, G. M., and Iredale, T. *A Manual of the Birds of Australia*, vol. 1.
 1931 Morgan, A. M. 'A Trip to Moolawatana, S.A.', *The S.A. Ornithologist*, vol. 11, p. 54.
 1950 Bryant, C. E. 'Marsh Terns Nesting', *The Emu*, vol. 49, p. 267.
 1955 Smith, A., and O'Connor, L. 'Breeding of Marsh Terns on Coode Island', *The Emu*, vol. 55, p. 255.

Black-backed Magpie Extends Range.—Some sixty years ago, Geo. E. Shepherd (*Victorian Naturalist*, XII, 68, 1895) described black-backed variants of the White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) from the Somerville and Lyndhurst districts of Victoria. C. F. Cole (*Emu*, XXI, 51, 1921) investigated the variation occurring among Black-backed Magpies (*G. tibicen*) in north-western Victoria, and concluded that a White-backed Magpie in that area is not necessarily *G. hypoleuca*, but may be a variant of *G. tibicen*.

A. G. Campbell (*Emu*, XXVIII, 173, 1929) considered that black-backed birds are gradually becoming dominant where inter-breeding between the two forms takes place, especially in South Australia.

In the vicinity of the North-west Bend of the Murray River and of Mount Mary/Sedan Plains, S.A., the black-backed birds have slowly increased in number and spread westward towards the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges during the past thirty years. There are many undoubted hybrid birds with varying degrees of black bar on the back, and, as has already been pointed out by H. T. Condon (*S.A. Orn.* 21, 21, 1954), not all the hybrids necessarily bear a black patch on the back.—ERHARD F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 22/10/56.