

Dr. Serventy concluded his review of the *Phaebetria* problem by saying that no. A6109 in the Perth Museum labelled *fusca* was now open to doubt, and he would not oppose too strongly anyone calling it *palpebrata*. Of the original Portland bird, identification of which started all the trouble—"I incline to its being *fusca* but think that this is one of the indeterminable group falling in the region of overlap."

So it seems that those of us who list Sooty or Grey-mantled Albatrosses on sight records are 'batting on a very sticky wicket'.

Five more birds, all common around Portland, are classed by Alexander as 'birds of the ocean', so we feel justified in adding them to our sea-bird list—

Phalacrocorax carbo. Black Cormorant.

P. sulcirostris. Little Black Cormorant.

P. varius. Pied Cormorant.

P. melanoleucus. Little Pied Cormorant.

Pelecanus conspicillatus. Australian Pelican.

Of the 53 sea-birds listed in this series all are verified by specimen records with the exception of Yellow-nosed Albatross, Osprey, Arctic Skua, Caspian Tern and Gull-billed Tern.

Adherence to Locality.—Examples of birds not normally sedentary or restricted to small areas nevertheless remaining 'faithful' to a selected site are common, but I have been interested to observe how a small group of Musk Ducks, varying from say six to fifteen, have for many years remained in a tiny 'corner' of Hobson's Bay. On one side is the right hand levee bank of the Yarra mouth, opposite is a bitumen road in the Melbourne suburb of Newport. The 'head' of the 'corner' is reclaimed land which has reduced the sea area over the years.

Because the birds were 'always' there, with numerous Black Swans and Silver Gulls, and occasionally other species, I have kept few records of dates, but I realize that, over a period of not less than 35 years, Musk Ducks have 'inhabited' that backwater and that some have been there on each occasion I pass by—several times a year, and, I believe, during all months.

Possibly the sea-floor (shallow) holds the backwash from tides and currents and suitable food might be plentiful.

Perhaps some younger observer in the district will keep proper records over the next 35 years or so.—C. E. BRYANT, Melbourne, Vic., 22/3/60.