

Bill colour of the Plumed Egret.—It has long been appreciated and recorded that the bill colour of the White Egret, *Egretta alba*, changes from yellow to almost black in the breeding season whilst that of the Little Egret, *E. garzetta*, remains dark, appearing practically black, at all times. However, the writer has never been able to discover any record of a change of colour of the normally yellow bill of the Plumed Egret, *E. intermedia*, in the breeding season until reading an article entitled "Living with an Egret Colony" by Harold J. Pollock which appeared in the *Age* of Saturday, June 26, 1965. In this article the author states, inter alia, "while that of the plumed species, also normally yellow, at this time becomes bright red". I believe this statement is worthy of note.—ALAN LENDON, 163 North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A.

Fork-tailed Kite in Tasmania.—On February 9, 1965, I recorded a single Fork-tailed Kite, *Milvus migrans*, circling over the Launceston Airport, Western Junction, Tasmania. The bird was observed for about five minutes, during which time it continuously spread its tail, displaying the fork as well as other general characteristics of the species. Apparently this record constitutes the first known occurrence of *Milvus migrans* for Tasmania, although it is regularly recorded in southern Victoria.—T. I. FLETCHER, P.O. Box 103, Lae, TPNG.

Kestrel: New record for Papua.—What appears to be the first record of the occurrence of the Kestrel in Papua is here described. Since March 1965, Kestrels have been seen by the author and by Major Harry Bell, P.I.R., at several localities around Port Moresby. On Jackson's Strip aerodrome four birds were seen on one occasion and single birds or pairs have been seen at Korobosea, Taurama, Moitaka and Boroko, all within 10 miles of Port Moresby. A live bird in the possession of David Gosney, a keen young bird enthusiast, was found in Boroko in late March or early April. Measurements of the live bird are: Wing 250 mm, tail 170 mm, bill (chord of the culmen) 16 mm. Total length could not be determined. It would appear that this bird closely resembles *Falco cenchroides baru* Rand in its small size. Its colouration shows the heavy streaking of the breast, head and back described for this subspecies. David Gosney has lived in Port Moresby for several years and said that it is the first season he has noted these birds here. Their appearance coincided closely with the advent of the south-east trade winds.—ROY D. MACKAY, Papua and New Guinea Museum, Box 635, P.O., Port Moresby, Papua.

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