

the Black Butcher-bird, *Cracticus quoyi*, could always be seen and heard. Every bird seen was in the black phase. From other observations all over Cape York Peninsula the brown phase would seem to be a rarity. It is noted that neither Barnard or McLennan make any mention of a bird in the brown phase. One nest at some 30 feet in a big Paperbark was found. I observed this bird dissecting a green tree frog with delicate distaste, clearly some parts must be unpalatable. The bird was well aware of the value of a fork to hold its prey while dismembering it but unfortunately a frog is too slippery and has no skull to hold it in a fork and it slipped out time after time. But instinct had not given the Butcher-bird the hint that if one put one's foot on the prey the job could be easily done.

"Duneira", Monbulk Road, Olinda, Victoria.

Manuscript received January 15, 1966.

Local movement and netting of the Yellowhammer.—Although the bird movements which take place in the south of the North Island of New Zealand are few, they include a local movement of the Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella*, a species of bunting. In that area the Yellowhammer is rare in the summer, judging from observations made in the Upper Hutt Valley from 1957-1965, and in the Wellington Peninsula, twenty miles away, mostly from 1946-1956. At Upper Hutt in the summer I found the Yellowhammer in song only at half-mile intervals along the Hutt River, and in three hundred acres of suitable habitat along the nearby Wakatikei River it was also scarce, with an average of six birds in song annually for six seasons. In the Wellington Peninsula, I found that the species was rare and local in summer in the North Makara, Makara, and South Karori Valleys, as was also the case on a walk of several miles on December 29, 1948, through Gollans Valley, Eastbourne, across Wellington Harbour, where I counted less than ten birds in song.

However, at Upper Hutt and Wellington, the Yellowhammer became abundant from autumn to spring, forming flocks of up to a hundred birds in suitable places. At Upper Hutt it had two peaks of abundance, in the autumn and early winter, and again in spring, as in true migration, but its numbers reached only a single peak in the Wellington Peninsula in the same periods. In autumn and early winter at Upper Hutt the Yellowhammer flew from the east, in small parties, mostly south-west or west towards Wellington, but it did not fly back east in spring in such groups. At Wellington it began to appear in numbers in built-up areas in April, the inner city parks in May, and wharves in June, but it left those places in October. At Upper Hutt the Yellowhammer left the town area in November.

Finally the Yellowhammer was common in spring one year and rare in another in the south of the Wairarapa between the township of Featherston and a large lake. From a number of obser-

vations made in recent years I found it was rare in that locality in late summer, but not so rare in autumn.

The following observations, made at Upper Hutt, relate to the use of a mist-net set to catch this species for banding. I caught the Yellowhammer from time to time in a mist-net set in my garden with small trees and shrubs, but I found it difficult to net under other conditions. For instance, on the morning of May 25, 1964, in good weather, I set a net in the open, well away from gardens, near tall trees, to catch buntings feeding in dry grass. Soon it became apparent that the net would not take them on that site, in contrast to the garden, so I tried, with my wife's assistance, to gently flush them from the grass into the net. However, the birds flew away to the tree tops and would not approach the net. I revisited the net that same morning, after the failure, well away from those trees, but again without catching birds. I therefore concluded that the Yellowhammer can be caught in nets in gardens with small trees and shrubs, but less readily elsewhere.—H. L. SECKER, Upper Hutt, N.Z.

NOTICE

The Council of the South African Ornithological Society has decided to organize the

THIRD PAN AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

in March, 1969.

The Congress will be held in the Kruger National Park, by kind permission of the National Parks Board of Trustees, probably at Pretorius Kop.

Anyone interested in attending should notify:

The Hon. Secretary, S.A.O.S.,

c/-, Percy Fitzpatrick Institute,

University of Cape Town, Rondebosch. C.P. South Africa.

Further information will be sent as it becomes available.
