

light breeze, taking insects as they went, as their movements showed. They flew at various heights, from 30 feet up to 300 feet or 400 feet, and must have accounted for a great quantity of insects during their passage. Their appearance was coincident, as usual, with atmospheric disturbance, a thunderstorm, with heavy rain, having occurred on the previous day; and on the afternoon of the day on which they were seen there was a tremendous downpour to the west (the direction from which they came), the papers next morning recording that some of the creeks were up over the bridges in a very short period. On the evening of 5th March, shortly before 6 o'clock, some 30 or 40 Spine-tailed Swifts came from about E.S.E., and proceeded directly and rapidly to N.W., as if migrating; the wind was from N.W., somewhat squally, and snow was lying on the Tiers, having fallen on the previous evening. The birds flew low, just over the tree-tops, the swish of their long wings being plainly audible. Early next morning the wind blew fresh from S.E., bringing a heavy shower.—H. STUART DOVE. West Devonport (Tas.), 8/3/16.

On 20th April about a dozen Spine-tailed Swifts were seen in the forenoon, heading from west to east, near the beach, at heights of perhaps 50 to 100 feet; they were feeding as they went. There had been a heavy shower in the early morning, the weather for the remainder of the day being fine, but very humid. There was a bank of cloud on W. and N.W. horizon when the birds were seen, and the breeze was N.W., light. That same night a thunderstorm came up, with heavy rain, which continued during the remainder of the morning (Good Friday). On the 22nd it was fair until evening, although the wind was bleak; rain set in about 6 p.m. On the 23rd there was a N.W. gale with showers, and very heavy sea running. Many visitors went out to Massey Bluff to see the great sprays against the headland. On the 24th there was a boisterous wind all day from the same quarter, with showers at night. On the 25th heavy rain fell all day, from the south-east, the greatest soaking we have had for some time. So the Swifts once more proved their ability to prognosticate disturbances. This was their last appearance for the season.—H. STUART DOVE, R.A.O.U. West Devonport (Tas.), May, 1916.

Correspondence.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—Will you kindly allow me to correct an item in the review of my last work which appeared in the last issue of *The Emu*. It is in reference to the new birds discovered, which number five, not two, as stated—one new species and four new sub-species. They are as follows:—

Acanthiza marianæ, S. A. White (*S.A. Ornithologist*, vol. ii., No. 2, 1915). Everard Range Tit.



Albatross Rising from the Sea, outside Port Jackson Heads, N.S.W.

FROM A PHOTO. BY J. DEGOTARDI.

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Lewinornis rufiventris maudeae, S. A. White. Central Australian
Rufous-breasted Thickhead.

Ethelornis culicivorus musgravi, Mathews (*A. A. Record*, vol. ii.,
No. 7, p. 130). Musgrave Fly-eater.

Smicrornis brevirostris mathewsi, S. A. White. Central Australian
Tree-Tit.

Barnardius zonarius myrtæ, S. A. White. Central Australian
Yellow-banded Parrot.

Thanking you for the review of my work, yours truly,

S. A. WHITE.

"Wetunga," Fulham, S.A., 12/6/16.

AVIFAUNA OF NEW SOUTH WALES ISLANDS.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—Your sense of the "eternal fitness of things" was no doubt responsible for the transference of the plate depicting an Albatross rising from the calm waters of Port Jackson from my article in the last issue of *The Emu* to a place of honour facing Dr. Ferguson's very valuable contribution, and the substitution of a less appropriate title. Visits of these splendid birds to our harbour are not of such frequency that they fail to excite comment and admiration, whereas an Albatross "rising from the sea" is an almost everyday spectacle to the sea-voyager. Such a picture I now present. It was taken by Mr. J. Degotardi just outside Port Jackson Heads. One can identify the species as the Black-browed Albatross, so clear is the negative. A comparison of the "footprints" in this picture with those in the previous one is interesting, as showing the greater distance the bird has to "walk" on the surface before he gets sufficient impetus to enable him to rise. "The Albatross in a calm may run a quarter of a mile before getting headway enough to launch himself into the air" (Frederic A. Lucas, "The Beginnings of Flight," *The American Museum Journal*, vol. xvi., p. 8, 1916).—Yours faithfully,

A. F. BASSET HULL.

Sydney, June, 1916.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

Sirs,—At page 264 of vol. xv. of *The Emu* you published a letter from me, by which I endeavoured to make a correction in regard to some note on *Hylacola cauta* which had appeared earlier in the same volume. I now know that instead of correcting one error I added another. This I regret very much. I have since been in communication with Mr. W. B. Alexander, of the Perth Museum, and Mr. M. W. Elliott, of Dumbhleyung, and have ascertained that the interpretation which I had put on a previous

letter from Mr. Elliott was quite erroneous. There was no error in the West Australian Museum, and there is no doubt that the bird referred to was *H. cantata*. It would, therefore, seem quite clear that the eggs found did not belong to the bird which was shot. Unfortunately, the eggs have been accidentally destroyed, and there is now no possibility of identifying them.—Yours truly,

J. A. ROSS.

54 Claremont-avenue. Malvern. 7/6/16.

Bird Observers' Club.

THE annual meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held in Melbourne on 25th May, 1916; Mr. Charles Barrett, C.M.Z.S., the president, in the chair. There was a fairly large attendance. Mr. F. E. Howe, the hon. secretary, in his report, referred to the interesting papers that had been read, and the specimens exhibited at the monthly meetings. In his address, the president suggested that members should endeavour, by combined effort, to obtain complete records of the home-life of at least a few native birds. In Europe and America excellent work was being done in this direction.

After a long discussion, a proposal that nesting boxes, drinking basins, and food tables should be provided for native birds in school play-grounds and public parks and gardens, if possible, was approved. Several members expressed doubt whether nesting boxes would be a success, and Starlings and Sparrows were mentioned as the most likely tenants. It was stated that the executive of the Gould League of Bird Lovers had approved of the scheme, and it was hoped the League members would help to carry it out.

Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., was elected president for the ensuing year, and Mr. F. E. Wilson hon. secretary. Mr. G. A. Dyer was re-elected hon. treasurer.

Publications Received.

The Zoologist, January, February, March, 1916.

January issue contains a short article by A. V. Aplin, "Notes on an August Nightingale" at Bloxham, Oxon, also "Some Bird Notes from the Somerset Coast," by Stanley Lewis. We are glad to see that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds keeps a watcher at Bream Down, the part of the coast mentioned. The February and March numbers contain many interesting articles.

Avicultural Magazine, February, March, 1916.

As usual, this magazine is full of interesting matter. Among other articles in the February number are "My Piping Crow," by Mrs. Staveley-Hill; "Sun-Birds in Their Native Haunts," by F. E. Blaauw; and "Wonders of Birds' Nests," by F. J. Koch. March issue contains, among other articles, "Birds in