

teeth of the wind, as if propelled by invisible power, for the wings were practically motionless. Perhaps the "flight-men" can explain how it is done, for to an onlooker it is difficult to see whence comes the motive power against a high wind.

The delicate "Pick-it-up" call of the Tree Diamond-Bird or Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*) was another sound which greeted the ear on this spring day. One of the smallest of our migrants, its voice is usually first heard during the last week of August or the first few days of September. The Pipit (*Anthus australis*), too, is an early September arrival, and this year a party of these brown "Ground-Larks" was actually seen to arrive from over the water at 7 o'clock on the morning of 8th September. They were evidently much wearied, as the breeze was southerly, and against them, and they flew as closely as possible to the surface of the sea. It is interesting to have this piece of confirmatory evidence as to the migration of the little Pipit, which appears so averse, when here, to any but the very shortest flights.

Forgotten Feathers.

BY H. STUART DOVE, WEST DEVONPORT (TAS.)

IN looking through some old cuttings recently, I came across extracts from a letter by Capt. Baudin, of the French expedition sent out by Napoleon in 1800, with reference to his explorations of Bruni Island, Frederick Henry Bay, Maria Island, and the Schoutens. In this letter occur many notes on Tasmanian birds. The Black Swan, Pelican, Albatross, and Cormorant were seen in numbers; the Sandpiper ("*la Becassine*") was noted on the seashore, also the Pied Oyster-catcher ("*la pie de mer a pieds et bec rouge*"). We are in doubt as to what was meant by "*goneland gris*," but probably the large Pacific Gull in immature (grey) plumage, one of the most frequent birds on our beaches. The sailors thought highly of the Black Swan for the cooking pot, and took unfair advantage of that noble bird in the moulting season, "when it can only fly with difficulty, and when it can be captured while swimming, notwithstanding that it can acquit itself well even then. The Duck and Teal are, after the Swan, the birds whose flesh makes the best eating. The Cormorant and the Albatross, although less good, are not for that reason to be disregarded." (The French cooks must have exercised their art to some purpose in making these two species palatable!) "The Oyster-catcher, Boobie, and Gulls are scarcely worth catching."

Capt. Baudin also refers to some of the land-birds which he saw on the islands of D'Entrecasteaux Channel and upon the mainland of our island. "The commonest species are the Parrots, blue-breasted and yellow-breasted, and another kind with red wings and green plumage. The latter is much smaller than the former, which is as large as a Dove, and very beautiful." The voyagers

also observed the Eagle, the Hawk, the Cuckoo, "*la Pigneche*," "*la Grieve*," "*la Perdix*," Quail, and other kinds. Here, except with the Magpie, we can only speculate as to the species referred to; probably "*le Coucou*" was the large Pallid species, and the Quail the Brown, which is plentiful on some of the islands. "*Criesche*" is an old French word meaning "speckled," so "*la Pigneche*" may have been one of the Rails. The "beautiful golden-winged Pigeon," of which a specimen was obtained, was unquestionably the Bronze-wing (*Phaps chalcoptera*). "*La Grieve*" in all probability refers to the Shrike-Thrush (*Collyriocincla rectirostris*), which "thrusts itself upon the notice by its bold approach and rich whistling notes," while I should say that the "speckled one" may very well have been the Spotted Ground-Bird (*Cinclosoma punctatum*), not at all uncommon now, and probably very plentiful at the time the observant Baudin visited our shores.

The Jungle and the Snows.

BY ROBERT HALL, C.M.B.O.U.

THE following should be read in conjunction with tables A to E of the paper printed in our last issue, pp. 109-117:—

APPROXIMATE DISTRIBUTION OF SIMLA HILLS PHEASANTS.

- Table A.—Monals.—(1) Common Monal (*Lophophorus refulgens*)—East Afghanistan to W. Bhotan.
(2) Chamba or Impeyan Pheasant (*L. impeyanus*)—Chamba, N.W. Himalaya.
(3) De Huys's Monal (*L. d'huysii*)—West Sze-chun, in West China, to East Koko-nor.
(4) Sclater's Monal (*L. sclateri*)—E. and S.E. of Sadya, N.E. Assam.

Table B.—White-crested Kalij—Hazara to Nepal.

Table C.—Common Koklas—Chamba to Kumaon.

Table D.—Chir or Cheer—Chamba to Nepal.

Table E.—Western Horned Tragopan—Higher ranges of Cashmere to Gurhwal.

As representatives of these five genera are all to be found along the Hindustani-Tibet road of the Simla Hill States, the localities in which they may be found are tabulated. Varying as they do in the character of their food, the localities naturally vary botanically. It is these plant differences that help to indicate the habitats of the species, so the common foods are also shown. The characters of flight as the birds leave the ground are so different as to warrant their being listed as an aid to identifying the birds on sight. It is quite possible, by means of this table, that all the Pheasants of the Simla Hills could be identified without the use of a gun. This is the intention.