

around with a curious floating flight, the tips of the wings being much lower than the body. The notes emitted while flying were remarkably sweet. This habit of returning to a chosen roosting-site is mentioned by Mr. C. F. Cole.*

Mr. Thompson says that many years ago a smaller type of Wild Turkey, or Bustard, than the well-known form (*Choriotis australis*) lived in the Malloo. He frequently found the nest, and the single egg was about the size of that of a Black-breasted Plover. He saw the last of these birds about 30 years ago. Is it possible that such a bird has passed out, unrecorded by science?

The Black-cheeked Falcon (*Falco melanogenys*), he observes, usually kills a Duck with its breast, and he has often secured a free Duck by rousing birds from a lagoon when the Falcon was in the vicinity. It flies under the Duck, and, swooping upward, strikes the bird on the abdomen with its breast. The Duck is usually killed outright, and on skinning the abdomen is found to be greatly bruised. If the bird misses with its breast, it occasionally uses its talons and carries the Duck to the ground, when it nearly severs the head in killing it. I saw the Falcon on only one occasion, and was not able to watch it hunting.

Cockatoos, apparently without harm to themselves, eat the seeds of a small hairy melon which is said to cause blindness in horses. This is another point in favour of the Cockatoo.

Mr. Thompson has had unlimited opportunities of watching Cormorants, and, while he considers most of them destructive to fish, he states that the Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*) lives largely on yabbies. If it is a fact that yabbies destroy fish ova, then the Cormorant is probably a necessity in fish preservation. Such a vexed question should be thoroughly investigated.

I must apologize for the incompleteness of this paper, but my object in dealing with only a few birds was to avoid going over ground already covered by other observers. In conclusion, I must offer my best thanks to Messrs. Chas. Thompson, H. Balmain, D. Otey, and others at Kulkyne for their great kindness and hospitality. I am indebted also to the staff at the National Herbarium, Melbourne, for naming the botanical specimens submitted to them.

Albino Laughing Kingfishers.—On the farm of Mr. Alf. Lukins, at Colac Colac, near Corryong, there are now to be seen four "white Jackasses." Mr. Lukins informs me that the number varies, and that there were six a short while ago. Though I have travelled much in Victoria and have always been interested in bird-life, I have not previously seen or heard of a pure "white Jackass." Emus are still to be seen about the Nariel Creek, 20 miles from Corryong.—J. G. EASTON. Geol. Survey Camp, Corryong.

* See *Emu*, vol. xv., p. 184.