from Yeppoon, and ten miles inland. For the most part it kept
to the scrubs or the scrubby margins of creeks, but occasionally
it would venture into open forest country. Then its song could
be heard at the same time as that of the White-throated species.
A third nest found was built in a scrub-bush near a creek. Here,
again, the remarkable hood was pronounced; and here, too, the
birds were consistent in lacking any trace of a dark throat.
Prompted by the Yeppoon experience, I removed the two eggs
from this nest—there was no warps’ nest nearby—and, sure
even, found one of them to be the dark-bronze egg of a
Bronze Cuckoo. Then Mr. Barnard and I secured a pair of
the birds, each of which came readily to a call. Examination left
no doubt that they were fully mature.

Comparison with Mathews’ plate persuaded us that these speci-
dums represented a new species—an opinion shared by Mr. Tom
Tredale (who was associated with Mathews in his great work),
when shown the skins at the Australian Museum, Sydney. But
we both “suffered a recovery” on comparing the “new” birds with
the Ramsay types of flavida. They agree almost precisely, the
only difference being that the latest skins are slightly paler on the
upper surface. This factor is probably due to the haunts of the
southern bird being less dense than those of the Cardwell
flavida, and is not, in my opinion, a sufficiently substantial basis
even for a sub-species.

But there can now be no doubt whatever as to the specific
validity of the Fairy Warbler. Has it been consistently working
southwards since its far-off separation from the Black-throated
Warblers of the tropics? Or, conversely, is the dark throat a
more recent development, showing that after the bird-waves of
ages ago had subsided, the ripples returned northward — the
throat-colour deepening under the influence of distance, time,
and depth of vegetation, and reaching its fullest strength with
birds in the scrap of land that is now the Aru Islands?

The Australian Darter.—It is generally supposed that the
Australian Darter is a fish-eating bird, and one having come to
our little lake at Stawell, it was not long before it was shot. It
told to my lot to get it and mount it. I made a careful
examination of the contents of the stomach, and to my surprise,
there was not the least trace of fish of any description. The
stomach contained only a number of worms, and about a table-
spoonful of a moss which grows on the bottom of the lake. As
fish abound in the lake, this was very remarkable, for the Darter
could easily have caught them. Is the serrated bill used for
cropping the moss, of which the Swans here are very fond? It
is possible that the Darter is not a fish-eating bird (certainly this
bird was not). Perhaps some of our readers may throw some