

unnecessary to add that the visitors greatly enjoyed their brief visit.

The country was in a dry condition, and bird-life was, in consequence, not very plentiful. Amongst the blue lilies on the lagoon there was a brood of young Wood Ducks (*Chenonetta jubata*) with their parents, and a brood of young Black Ducks (*Anas superciliosa*) was seen on one of the dams.

In the large trees along the creek-bed various birds were nesting, including Grey-breasted Wood Swallows (*Artamus hypoleucus*), Whistling Eagles (*Haliastur sphenurus*), and Collared Sparrowhawks (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*). The writer was fortunate enough to witness an incident in the domestic life of the latter birds. The female was sitting on the nest in the evening, only the tip of her tail visible from below, when the little male appeared with a mouse grasped in his left foot. He settled in a tree near the nest, and uttered a whistling call, whereupon the female left the nest and joined him. They sat side by side on a limb for a moment, then flew off together, and as they did so the female snatched the mouse from her mate. She flew back to the bough, holding it in her right foot, and proceeded to devour it.

Perhaps the rarest bird seen at Coomooboolaroo on this occasion was the Black-eared Cuckoo (*Mesocalinus osculans*). An adult was seen in a clearing in the scrub, and later a young bird was seen being fed by a pair of Purple-backed Wrens (*Malurus assimilis*). I am informed that the Variegated Wren of this district which was described by Mr. H. L. White as *Malurus lamberti dawsonianus* is now regarded as a form of *M. assimilis*, though its describer stated it was just as distinct from *assimilis* as it was from *lamberti*, and geographical considerations would suggest the latter as its nearer ally. The form is figured in the *Emu*, Vol. XVI., p. 69. To return to the young Cuckoo which these Wrens were feeding, it may be mentioned that it uttered a low twittering note very much like that of its foster-parents.

## At Tambourine Mountain

By A. H. CHISHOLM, C.F.A.O.U., Sydney.

Tambourine Mountain, a spur of the Macpherson Range, lying approximately thirty miles south-east of Brisbane, has long been a favourite of naturalists. In the old days the jungles there were very rich in a wide variety of wild life, and even now, when settlement has developed and is still developing, the old mount has much of charm to offer to students of all branches of natural history.

This was impressed upon those members of the R.A.O.U. who visited Tambourine on returning from Central Queensland. They

comprised Messrs. Barrett, Chisholm, Gaukrodger, Brennan, Musgrave, Carter and Sloane. The extent of their visits was from a few hours to several days, and all were the guests of Mrs. Geissmann and Miss Hilda Geissmann at their hospitable home, "Capo di Monte." Weather conditions, on the whole, were rather unfavorable, rain following a heat wave, but both the ornithologists and entomologists of the party had a very interesting time. Some attention was given also to flora, notably a fine old Cycad (*Macrozamia*) and a glorious lot of ravine orchids (*Sarcochilus fitzgeraldi*) that bedecked mossy rocks in a deep gorge.

Birds were plentiful. It was a delight to hear and see again those jungle-lovers that were missing from Byfield—among them Rifle-Birds, Regent and Satin Bower-Birds, Cat-Birds, Yellow-throated Scrub-Wrens, and Brown Warblers. The last-named bird (*Gerygone fusca*) made the fourth species of its genus we had seen in Queensland. Nest, adults and young were photographed.

Tambourine Mountain has to its credit nearly 200 species of birds. The only South Queensland jungle bird absent is *Atrichornis rufescens*, the Eastern Scrub-Bird, which is found in Queensland only on the main Macpherson Range.

---

## Notes and Comments

The current number is devoted almost exclusively to the Annual Meeting of the Union, and the various excursions organised in connection therewith.

The 1924 Congress was unique in several features, and it is hoped that members who were unable to be present will appreciate a fuller account of it than has been published of most previous congresses of the Union.

In the first place, the 23rd Congress was honoured by the presence at most of its sessions of His Majesty's representative in the State where it was held. His Excellency Sir Mathew Nathan, G.C.M.G., Governor of Queensland, specially journeyed from Brisbane to Rockhampton to take part in the conference. His presence was inspiring to the members as a proof that their labours on behalf of bird study and protection are appreciated by one whose high position makes his opinion of great value. The presence of the Governor also tended to increase the interest of the people of Queensland in the work of the R.A.O.U., and to prevent the inhabitants of the Rockhampton district from regarding the visiting ornithologists as mere cranks.

In the second place, the Congress was the first to be held at a city which is not one of the State capitals. Rockhampton is the principal city of the central division of Queensland, which has an