

## Correspondence

### A CORRECTION.

A letter has been received from Dr. W. D. K. MacGillivray in connection with the first part of his article "Through a Drought-stricken Land." He has requested that certain corrections in the article be noted. The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*) referred to on page 55 should be Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*C. banksi*), whilst the reference to *Dendrocygna eytoni* on page 67 should be omitted. On page 63 reference is made to the Black-throated Finch (*Poëphila cincta*). In the author's manuscript, which did not contain, in the part preceding the notes on the birds seen, any scientific names, the Finch is given as the Black-throated, but Dr. MacGillivray now advises that it was *Poëphila acuticauda*, evidently the Long-tailed Finch. On page 63 also Dajarra should read Kajabbi.—Ed.

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### MAGPIES.

Milingimbi, North Australia.

26/6/29.

The Editor, *The Emu*.

Dear Sir,—It was with great pleasure that I read in the January *Emu* Mr. A. G. Campbell's article on Australian Magpies, and I was particularly interested to note what he has to say concerning the distribution of the various species.

In speaking of the Long-billed Magpie, Mr. Campbell raises the question of whether the whole of North Australia from the McArthur River westward to the Gascoyne River is to be regarded as Magpie country. I am writing this at Milingimbi, one of the Crocodile Islands lying just off Arnhem's Land, a few miles to the east of Cape Stewart, where I have been resident for three years. I am to some extent familiar with the coastal country from Darwin to Elcho Island, a distance of approximately 400 miles. While here my work has frequently taken me several miles inland at a number of points on the mainland, including trips at least a score of miles up both the Goyder and the Glyde Rivers, and it may be of interest to your readers to know that no Magpie has been observed by me in this district. It would therefore appear that though found at Borraloola and Groote Eylandt their distribution has not continued northward and westward as far as this locality.

(Rev.) T. THEODOR WEBB.

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### BIRD PROTECTION.

Mr. J. R. Kinghorn has written in connection with the criticism of his paper on Bird Protection. He states that

some of the errors in his list did not exist at the time that the paper was written and that there have been alterations in some of the schedules this year. In any case, the lists *qua* lists are subsidiary to the main purpose and of no great consequence, but the principle outlined is a sound one. Mr. Kinghorn insists that some uniform plan of action throughout the Commonwealth is desirable, such as Commonwealth control with State advisory boards. Protection of particular birds in any one State is useless if an adjoining State places no restrictions on the slaughter or export of those birds.

So far as regards his misinterpretation of the States Acts, how much more difficult, he asks, must it be for the general public not familiar with ornithological nomenclature nor the interpretation of statutes to understand them? Mr. Kinghorn concludes with the hope that his article and the criticisms thereof will result in greater efforts to ensure protection of our birds.

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## News and Notes

Members will regret to hear of the illness of Dr. J. A. Leach, who has been acting as Editor of *The Emu* until an appointment to that position is made. His progress at first was satisfactory and he expected to be out of hospital and continuing towards complete recovery by the date of publication. He has, however, suffered severe relapses, and is at present very ill. It is sincerely hoped that Dr. Leach will speedily regain his health and soon be able to resume his usual keen interest in matters appertaining to the Union.

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The 1929 annual congress, which it is proposed to request His Excellency the Governor of South Australia to open, will commence in Adelaide on October 8. Following the congress the camp-out, commencing on October 11, will be held at Salt Creek, the Coorong. The accommodation house there can accommodate 25, or 30 if visitors bring their own rugs. Any visitors beyond the number of 30 must make arrangements to camp. The accommodation will be at the rate of £4/4/- per week, which amount will be reduced to £3/10/- if 25 attend the camp. Boats will be available for the party free of charge, and Mr. McGilp advises that he is hoping to arrange for private cars to convey the party to the Coorong.

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