

"Protective" Action.—I was much interested some time ago in a Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), which, on our near approach in a boat to its nest, assumed an attitude with uplifted head, and remained motionless whilst I focused my graflex upon it, and took its photograph from a few feet away. The nest was on a dead gum "sucker." I have no doubt that the attitude assumed was protective and that the bird tries, and succeeds, to look like a twig.—H. D. LETHBRIDGE, R.A.O.U., Narandera, N.S.W.

Correspondence

To the Editor.

Sir,—Possibly through a mistake on my part, on page 312 of Vol. XXXI of *The Emu*, you quote me as writing, "In September and October, 1930, fair numbers [of Flock Pigeons], in small flocks were observed on Moolawatana, South Australia." This is not correct, as the date should be September and October, 1931. I will be pleased if you will make this correction.

Yours, Etc.,

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A letter has been received from G. M. Mathews concerning the review of the genus *Gerygone* Gould in the *Novitates Zoologicae*, Vol. XXXVI, No. 3, pp. 317 to 379, September 3, 1931, by Dr. Wilhelm Meise.

Dr. Meise uses "groups," or, as Mr. Mathews calls them, "super-species," and relegates some forms at present carrying specific rank to sub-species. He appears to admit the following species and sub-species:—

G. olivacea, with *flavigasta* and *rogersi* as sub-species.

G. magnirostris with *G. m. tenebrosa* as sub-species.

G. chloronota with no sub-species in Australia.

G. fusca: includes the *laevigaster* group with *G. f. laevigaster*, *G. f. broomei* and *G. f. mastersi* as sub-species; the *fusca* group with *G. f. fusca*, *G. f. mungi* and *G. f. exsul*; and *G. f. cantatrix*.

G. igata: includes *G. i. igata*, *G. i. insularis*, *G. i. modesta*; and the *richmondi* group with *G. i. richmondi*, *G. i. mouki*, and a new form from Bowen, *G. i. amalia*.

G. palpebrosa with *personata*, *johnstoni* and *flavida*.

Mr. Mathews adds that perhaps some field naturalist will confirm the above from observation and cabinet skins.