

After carefully weighing the good and the bad habits of the Eagle, the writer has come to the conclusion that he cannot give a verdict of "not guilty" when the venue is in Eagle-infested areas. He reserves his judgment, or, better still, adopts the legal term of "not proven" when an Eagle is one of a few in a district which is well populated by humans. A rider should be added advising any accuser to consider carefully all the pros and cons of the case before he destroys Eagles.

The writer regrets that from the available evidence he can form no other conclusion, for he admits that he would like to feel that he was justified in working for the general preservation of the Wedge-tail. He does not, however, fear that this wonderful bird will be exterminated, for in the dense scrub or forest country, in the rough, mountainous regions, and in the almost untrodden and uninhabited areas of the inland, it will find a refuge wherein its numbers will be augmented for generations to come.

In using the word "Eagles," without any other distinguishing name, the writer does not include the Whistling Eagle, the Little Eagle, or the numerous smaller Hawks of Australia, for in the case of those birds all the available evidence undoubtedly proves that they are of great economic value, and well worthy of any protection that can and should be given to them.

Birds Around a Country House.—Whilst writing up bird notes I was struck by the number of species that were referred to as nesting near the house, so I decided to see how many there were. No fewer than fourteen species have nested in the small garden and orchard, whilst thirty-two more have nested within one hundred yards, chiefly in a clump of old apple trees (*Angophora*) on a flat across the creek from the house. Following is the list: Peaceful Dove, Whistling Eagle, Kestrel, Rosella, Tawny Frogmouth, Owlet-Nightjar, Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow-bird, Horsfield and Golden Bronze Cuckoos, Welcome Swallow, Grey Fantail, Willie Wagtail, Leaden Flycatcher, Restless Flycatcher, Jacky Winter, Scarlet, Red-capped and Hooded Robins, Rufous Whistler, Magpie-Lark, White-winged Triller, White-throated Warbler, Eastern Whiteface, Striated, Little, Buff-tailed and Yellow-tailed Thornbills, Speckled Warbler, Rufous Songlark, Blue Wren, White-browed and Dusky Wood-Swallows, Orange-winged Sittella, Brown and White-throated Tree-creepers, Red-tipped Pardalote, Silvereye, Brown-headed and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Noisy Friar-bird, Diamond Firetail, Red-browed Finch, Olive-backed Oriole and Magpie. A pair of Goldfinches has also nested in the orchard three times.—E. L. HYEM, "Mernot," Barrington, N.S.W., 8/8/36.