

river, he developed, as his father had done, an intense interest in birds. He came to look for their nesting and comings and goings, and especially for such new species and occasional visitors that visited the district. He was devoted to an odd day's shooting along the river or among the marshes by the Moulting Lagoon and had a deep knowledge of the aquatic birds and migrants. So in several issues of *The Emu* there were to be found, in the Stray Feathers column, notes by him on birds and their ways. It was only isolation and his naturally-shy manner that prevented a closer association with the R.A.O.U. and its camps and other activities.

It is more than twenty years now, since kindred interests brought us together. He had, with his wife, commenced the study of the stone implements of the extinct Tasmanian aborigines. They collected over many East Coast camping grounds, some close to his home. Most interesting of all were those of the long stretch of the West Coast from the northern tip as far south as the Pieman river. Riding and camping with him was ideal. To a natural courtesy were added a delightful voice, and a merry laugh in keeping, and we had endless things to talk of as we jogged along. He knew all the birds, their notes and habits, and where to look for rare and unusual species. Of trees he had a similar knowledge, whether native or introduced. I remember well, one day, a deviation of several miles so that I might see a well-loved group of rare eucalypts that he had known of for years. He read widely and thought deeply and had written much that was new, on the implements of the Tasmanian natives. By collection and exchange, with Mrs. Legge's help, he had acquired a remarkable collection of stone artifacts, which they presented to the Victorian Museum at Launceston.

At Cullenswood on December 11, 1944, we bade farewell to him, in the church built and endowed by his grandfather and added to by his family. Each of the lovely stained-glass windows is inscribed to the memory of one of his relatives, including Henry Kingsley the author. Here it was his custom to come day by day and find strength and comfort, and, within a few feet of the seat he had occupied for so many years, we left him to his long rest.—W. L. CROWTHER.

Stray Feathers

Bristle-bird at Cordeaux River.—In view of the apparent rarity of the Eastern Bristle-bird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*), the finding of a bird I consider could be referable only to this species at Cordeaux river on December 31, 1944, may be worth recording. With two companions—Messrs. J. McNamara and B. Bresnahan—I had been in-

vestigating a bushfire near the source of the Cordeaux river and had gone there in the hope of obtaining water. I descended to the water beneath a ledge of rock and my companions were following when an unfamiliar note caused me to look up. A bird appeared on a shelf of rock and moved along it in a furtive, mouse-like manner. For a fleeting second it remained in full view at close range and then disappeared into a bush, whence it fluttered with outspread tail into the undergrowth as I incautiously manoeuvred to get another view of it. The first brief glimpse suggested a Pilot-bird, but the later view revealed an appreciably larger bird, more slender in build, and lighter coloured underneath. The short wings were noticed as it fluttered from the bush. I had always thought the area to be a likely spot for Bristle-birds, but previous searches had been unavailing.—ELLIS MCNAMARA, Cordeaux River, N.S.W., 10/1/45.

Bristle-birds in Western Australia.—Early in February, 1944, when Mr. K. C. Buller was in the Albany district, he undertook a lengthy motor trip, with Mr. Charles Allen of Cuthbert, in the course of which they heard a bird-call unfamiliar to them. After a careful search the bird was located and shot by Mr. Buller, who generously presented the specimen to the W.A. Museum.

Mr. Buller's identification of the bird as a female Western Bristle-bird, *Dasyornis longirostris* Gould, has been confirmed as correct. It is of considerable scientific interest that a bird not shot or reported since March, 1907, when the veteran collector, Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock, obtained a specimen near Wilson's Inlet, should prove to be still a living member of the Western Australian avifauna.

I may add that in March, 1940, I saw a specimen of the Rufous Bristle-bird, *Dasyornis broadbenti* (McCoy), on the coast west of the Mammoth Cave and some miles south of Cape Mentelle. Several local ornithologists have agreed that my description of the bird seen indicated this second Western Australian species.—L. GLAUERT, Perth, W.A., 6/3/45.

The Fire on Mondrain Island, W.A.—G. P. Whitley in *The Emu*, vol. 44, 1944, p. 6, describes a fire which he observed on January 23, 1944, on Mondrain Island in the Recherche Archipelago. From his description it is clear that the fire was a large one and it might be inferred that, as a result of it, the vegetable and animal life would be devastated.

During the course of an aerial survey of the waters of southern Western Australia on September 27, 1944, I had an opportunity to fly around Mondrain Island. It occurs to

me that my notes made at the time may be of interest. Since Mr. Whitley is my colleague and as I had seen his article before I made the flight, I paid particular attention to the extent of the destruction on the island. My notes are as follows:

About three-fifths of Mondrain Island is burnt out. Most of the unburnt portions are on the eastern side in the northern half of the island. The sparse vegetation on the extreme southern end has escaped the fire. There is a little strip of vegetation on the south-western end of the island which has not been burnt. The fire has swept to the water's edge down the gullies in the rock face in which vegetation occurs. There are patches of green vegetation on the western half of the island, also in the middle and in the northern part. The extreme northern tip is untouched.

It is very difficult to assess the extent of the area affected by fire, because some of the total area of the island comprises bare granite. Photographs might not serve to differentiate the green areas from the burnt ones.

There were no signs of re-growth in the blackened zone where the stark limbs of the burnt-out mallee could be seen. In some of the untouched areas what appeared to be yellow wattle was in bloom. I could observe no sign of how the fire started. I was able to inspect most of the islands in the Archipelago but I found no evidence of recent fires on any of them.

From his article referred to above and from conversations with him I know Mr. Whitley believed the fire on Mondrain to be unprecedented. According to his skipper (Mr. Arthur Douglas) "all attempts at burning off Mondrain Island had previously failed and not even kerosene could help to ignite the accumulated undergrowth there. The island and the adjacent mainland are uninhabited and outside the usual run of any transport."

I also am inclined to think that a fire on such a scale is a rarity in this area. Many of the islands have not been used for sheep pasture and, in fact, could not be. However, A. F. Basset Hull, in *The Emu*, vol. 21, 1922, p. 284, referring to his visit in November, 1921, says in respect of Mondrain Island: "So many times have fires been put through the scrub that only such persistent birds as the Mutton Birds could survive."—S. FOWLER, Perth, W.A., 11/10/44.

Reviews

Rejected Genera.—*American Museum Novitates*, no. 1269, Dec. 10, 1944, is 'Notes on Some Genera from the South-west Pacific,' by Ernst Mayr. The validity of several genera, mostly monotypic, being doubtful, the author undertook a revision resulting in the jettisoning of (*inter alia*) *Urodynamis* Salvadori, *Microdynamis* Salvadori, *Malacolestes* Mayr, *Myiolestes* Bonaparte, and *Meliphacator* Mathews. The two first, created for species of *Eudynamis* on slender differences such as colour pattern, absence of sexual dimorphism, and "small size and remarkable plumage coloration," can scarcely be justified from an analysis of generic characters.