

October 18, 1867: Mr. T. H. Dardel, of Paradise Vineyards, Batesford, writes to say that he brought out from Paris "by the *Kaikoura* steamer last year, two white swans. . . . They did not remain very long on my premises, but were in the neighbourhood amusing themselves by going up and down the river. Lately, however, one of them disappeared."

December 31, 1867: "It is found that the cherries in the gardens in and around Ballarat are suffering severely from the sparrows now becoming so numerous. 'Acclimatizers' . . . should have borne in mind that the sparrow is not an insectivorous bird, but fruit-eating and grain-eating. . . . We remember that Dr. Mueller warned the now defunct local Acclimatization Society against the introduction of the sparrow to Ballarat."

March 20, 1868: "The members of the Victorian Acclimatization Society, at the annual meeting . . . ventilated . . . the 'sparrow question.'" A passage from the annual report states—"The sparrows which were introduced by this Society have multiplied to such an extent that the society has been enabled to distribute numbers of them to Beechworth, Benalla, Kyneton, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Daylesford, Warrnambool, Geelong, St. Arnaud, Heathcote, Somerton, Winchelsea, Meredith, Gisborne, Ararat, Portland, Maryborough, and the Murray; and from all of these places replies have been received of a very satisfactory nature." Professor McCoy said there "was no doubt the sparrow fed upon grain and . . . [there] was no doubt the young were fed entirely upon grubs and granivorous insects."

White-breasted Sea-Eagle Nesting in South Australia.—

Among the specimens brought back by a Museum party which visited the area near the southern end of Lake Torrens in September, 1948, was a nestling of the White-breasted Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*). The youngster had been taken by Mr. Jack Barbour from a large nest on top of a large myall tree, about six miles S.S.E. of Whittata homestead and west of the Beda arm of Lake Torrens. Not much attention was paid to the specimen by members of the party as it was thought to be a young Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaëetus audax*). It was one of a pair in the nest, which also contained the torso of a lamb. No adult birds were seen.

Although unfit for preservation for Museum purposes, the identity of the specimen was beyond doubt. It was of about the same age as the young one shown by Fleay in his recent excellent account of this species (*Emu*, vol. 48, plate 5). The following details were taken by Mr. F. Mitchell, of the Museum staff, to whom I am indebted for an opportunity to examine the specimen: iris, red-brown; length, 500 mm.; wing span, 620 mm.; sex, female (?). The White-breasted Sea-Eagle is frequently met with in Spencer Gulf and about the islands around Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.—H. T. CONDON, South Australian Museum, 14/10/49.