a plumage difference between the male and female. Hind-wood, too (The Emu, vol. 50, p. 209), credits Gannon with the field identification of a male near Sydney, and as the bird was not dissected it would seem that there again sex was determined by plumage.

Whatever is the true explanation regarding the adult birds, it seems to be fairly well established that both sexes are alike during immaturity, and this similarity is distinguished by the brown and grey plumage phase. Just how long such lasts does not seem certain—North quotes Bennett as having observed that ‘young birds’ stay with the adults for at least fifteen months—and it may be that in this lies the answer to the problem. The number of immature birds, in the Mildura district at any rate, both of *Cracticus nigrogularis* and *C. torquatus*, in relation to the total population, always appears high. This seems to indicate that this plumage phase lasts a considerable time, and the likelihood of birds, either male or female, breeding before the fully-adult plumage is attained, must be considered as a definite possibility.

I have said that both *C. nigrogularis* and *C. torquatus* occur in this district. As there is a similarity in the field between these two species whilst in immature plumage, any attempt at field identification of immature birds in an area such as this could be misleading unless the immature were in company with an adult bird.

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Stone-Plover Afloat.—The following interesting account of the behaviour of a Stone-Plover (*Burhinus magnirostris*) was sent to me by my brother-in-law, Mr. C. R. G. Reid, of Gunbower, Vic., in a letter dated February 4, 1951. “A few days ago,” he writes, “one of the dogs surprised a Curlew on the creek bank, and for some reason the bird went into the water. There were several people present and the dog was called off, but the Curlew was more or less out of reach by this time, and floating quite flat on the surface: it did not flap or struggle at all. I was sent for, probably fifteen minutes from the start, and found the bird still flat on the water, wings folded in normal position, neck at full stretch, head in line and eyes just above water. It had floated to the deep side of a log, and its bill was resting on the log. Water quite deep. At my suggestion, one of the ladies present, in gum boots, went along the log, tried unsuccessfully to ‘shoo’ the bird towards safety, then took it by the tail and towed it inshore. Directly its feet touched bottom, it made a sort of hissing noise at us, calmly walked out of the water and ran off, shaking itself vigorously as it went. In about 100 yards it joined two others we had not noticed, and all three went off together.”—A. D. SELBY, Kallista, Vic., 26/4/51.