

Song-Lark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*).  
 Lesser Bush-Lark (*Mirafra secunda*).  
 Pipit (*Anthus australis*).  
 Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Collyriocincla harmonica*).  
 Mistletoe-Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*).  
 Silver-eye (*Zosterops caeruleascens*).  
 Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).  
 White-fronted Bush-Chat (*Ephthianura albifrons*).  
 Spotted-sided Finch (*Steganopleura guttata*).  
 Chestnut-eared Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).

ADDITIONAL LIST.—Birds identified in the same district in August, 1911, but not seen in August, 1912 :—

Swamp-Hawk (*Circus gouldi*).  
 Orange-fronted Bush-Chat (*Ephthianura aurifrons*).  
 Rufous Song-Lark (*Cinclorhamphus rufescens*).  
 Crow (*Corvus coronoides*).  
 Brush Wattle-Bird (*Anellobia mellivora*).  
 Yellow Parrakeet (*Platycercus flaveolus*).  
 Warbling Grass-Parrakeet (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).  
 Bronze-wing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera*).  
 White-breasted Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax gouldi*).

### Stray Feathers.

**Regent-Birds in Orchard.**—Four Regent-Birds (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*) recently took up their abode in an orange orchard near Bellingen, New South Wales. One pair built a nest in an orange tree and reared a brood. All the birds became so tame that they would hop into the kitchen in search of food. A report from Goulburn states that the imported Goldfinches are exterminating the spotted thistle in the vicinity of the town. Large flocks of the Finches are constantly feeding on the seed.—A. S. LE SOUEF. Sydney, 22/11/12.

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**Cuckoo Records.**—At Gerahmin, 14 miles north-west of Chillingollah, Victoria, on 15th September, 1912 (when in company with Messrs. J. A. Ross, T. H. Tregellas, and J. J. Searce), I found a nest of *Hylacola cauta* containing two eggs of the Wren and an egg of the Narrow-billed Bronze-Cuckoo (*C. basalis*). In the same locality, and on the same date, Mr. Ross found a nest of the Tawny-crowned Honey-eater (*Glycyphila fulvifrons*), which contained one egg of the Honey-eater and an egg of the Narrow-billed Bronze-Cuckoo.—F. E. HOWE. Canterbury (Vic.)

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**Foster-Parents of Cuckoos.**—I would like to mention the following foster-parents of Cuckoos :—Black-billed Fly-eater (*Pseudogerygone brunneipectus*) as foster-parent of Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcococcyx pæcilurus*) and Little Bronze-Cuckoo (*C. malayanus*); Yellow-tinted Tree-Tit (*Smicrornis flavescens*) as foster-parent of *Chalcococcyx malayanus* (I think that *Smicrornis*

*flavescens* has never been recorded as a foster-parent of any Cuckoo; White-throated Honey-eater (*Melithreptus albigularis*) as foster-parent of Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*)—this is probably a new foster-parent of the Pallid Cuckoo; while the Little Friar-Bird (*Philemon sordidus*) and Northern Oriole (*Oriolus affinis*) are foster-parents of the Koel (*Eudynamis cyanocephala*).—ALAN P. DODD. Nelson, *viâ* Cairns (N.Q.), 16/12/12.

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**New Yellow Robin.**—Many years ago at Coomooboolaroo, Dawson River district, Queensland, in the dry brigalow (acacia) scrub, I procured an *Eopsaltria* with the dull yellowish rump, which did not agree with the well-known southern form, *E. australis*. In due course the skin found its way into the National Museum, Melbourne. Recently, while examining material in connection with the "Check-list" Committee, the skin was re-examined, and is now separated sub-specifically from the Yellow-breasted Robin (*E. australis*).

It is remarkable that this (smaller) form of the southern bird should appear sandwiched, so to speak, between the two bright yellow-rumped varieties—*E. chrysorrhoa* (New South Wales and South Queensland) and *E. magnirostris* (North Queensland).

The new bird is named *E. coomooboolaroo* after the station of the Messrs. Barnard, whose names as field ornithologists, together with the name of their station, will become historical in the annals of Australian ornithology.

*Eopsaltria coomooboolaroo* (Lesser Yellow Shrike-Robin), in addition to its smaller size, differs chiefly from *E. australis* in the absence of the greenish (olive) tint on the mantle, outer edges of the primaries, secondaries, and tail feathers, which are all uniformly greyish. Dimensions in inches:—Length, 5.0; wing, 3.1; tail, 2.4; tarsus, 0.75; bill, 0.45.

For description of eggs see "Nest and Eggs," page 312 (second paragraph).—A. J. CAMPBELL.

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**Many-coloured Parrakeet** (*Psephotus multicolor*).—In a somewhat small cage (2 feet x 2 feet x 1 foot 6 inches) I keep a pair of Many-coloured Parrakeets, which nested in August last, but, owing to the cold weather or other causes, from a set of five eggs one young only was hatched, and that died when about a week old. The same pair again nested in October, and the female laid five eggs. The time that elapsed between the first egg being laid and the fifth was about a week. Four young were hatched. I should say incubation took 15 to 16 days, but, being loth to disturb the female when sitting, I cannot state exactly the term. It is now five weeks since I noticed the first one hatched. Three are well feathered, and fine birds, and sit on the edge of the box-nest, and two have already come to the bottom of the cage to-day, starting to feed. The female, when sitting, seldom leaves

the nest, as the male is very attentive in feeding her during that time. The green food I have given them has been "milk thistles"—flower and stalk. For the latter they seem to have a particular relish, and also for rye-grass in seed. For dry food, Canary seed *ad lib.*: hemp seed, about a teaspoonful four or five times a day, and a few grains of soaked maize at the same time; flaked oatmeal and wheatmeal biscuit always before them. When about to nest I give a free supply of animal charcoal (burnt bones, porous ones being preferred), but when rearing young charcoal crumbled small, and from the quantity that they eat there appears a great and important value to its properties.—T. HURST. Inkerman-road, Caulfield (Vic.), 12/12/12.

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***Procellaria æquinoctialis mixta*** (Mathews' "Birds of Australia," vol. ii., part i., p. 111).—The following short notes from my own observations confirm this new sub-species. The first specimen was noted about 900 miles west of Albany (Western Australia) on 12th April, 1909, while I was travelling on a White Star boat homewards, and increasing numbers of these birds were daily observed until 19th April, when we were about 800 miles east of Durban (long. 45° E.), when no more were noted. On the return voyage this Petrel was first seen off Cape St. Francis, between Cape Town and Durban, when about 20 followed the steamer all day (10th December, 1909), and they increased in numbers daily until 17th December, when they were very numerous. The steamer then was in lat. 40° S., about 500 miles north of the Crozet Islands. On 24th December the Spectacled Petrels (and other species of birds that had constantly followed the steamer) became much less in numbers, and the last of the Petrels were seen on Christmas Day, when about 500 miles south-west of Albany. Several specimens were caught on both passages, and the colouration of the bill and soft parts, as given by Mr. Mathews on my authority, may be relied upon, as the colours were noted from living birds. Birds that were dissected appeared to have been feeding upon small squids (?), as great numbers of their beaks were found in the gizzards of the birds. On my voyage both to and from England I daily spent a considerable time in observing and making notes upon the Petrels, Albatrosses, &c., that accompanied the steamers, being assisted by powerful binoculars. Among the hundreds (probably thousands) of Spectacled Petrels that were under observation, not a single bird was seen with any white on the plumage except the chin spot, and this varied considerably in extent. *No specimen was seen with any white markings above the beak or on the face.*—TOM CARTER. Broome Hill (W.A.), 12/11/12.

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**Descriptions of Eggs New to Science.**—*Rallina tricolor*.—The identity of eggs of this species now being established beyond all doubt (*vide The Emu*, vol. xi., pp. 19 and 20, also *The Ibis* of

July and October, 1912, pp. 552 and 684), I claim that the clutch taken by Mr. H. G. Barnard, and recorded above, is the type.\*

Nest.—A hollow in the ground, lined with a few dead leaves.

Locality.—Cape York. Date, 10th January, 1911.

Eggs.—Four, pure white, shape roundish oval, surface of shell smooth and glossy. Dimensions in inches:—(a) 1.55 x 1.11; (b) 1.5 x 1.13; (c) 1.5 x 1.12; (d) 1.55 x 1.15.

*Ptilotis novæ-noriæ* (Milligan).—Eggs of this species have been in my collection for some years, and I understood that they had been described before coming into my possession. A careful search, however, reveals no record.

Nest (taken by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock at Dundas Goldfield, Western Australia).—A neat, cup-shaped structure of grasses, well lined with vegetable down, and placed about 3 feet from the ground in a small bush; situation, open country, free of large timber. Date, 1st August, 1905.

Eggs.—Clutch, two; shape, long oval; surface glossy, ground colour very light flesh, lightly spotted at larger end with a few dots and splashes of brownish-red. Dimensions in inches:—(a) .83 x .61; (b) .82 x .59.

A second clutch, obtained by Mr. L. G. Chandler, 6/9/12, near Kow Plains, North-West Victoria, is similar in shape and markings to the Western Australian clutch. The nest in this case was composed of bark with a lining of rabbit-fur; it was placed 2 feet from the ground in a wild myrtle tree. Dimensions:—(a) .85 x .58; (b) .81 x .59.

Another set taken by Mr. Chandler, 19/9/12, in the same locality, from a nest placed 4 feet from the ground in a tea-tree, consists of two eggs, much rounder specimens than those previously mentioned; almost devoid of markings, a few indistinct reddish specks only being noticeable at the larger ends. Dimensions:—(a) .78 x .6; (b) .78 x .61. —H. L. WHITE. Belltrees (N.S.W.), 7/12/12.

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**Birds and Frogs, &c.**—On 15th September I found a nest of the Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) placed in a Moreton Bay fig-tree growing in the garden at Fairymead Plantation, near Bundaberg. The bird was sitting, and to my surprise would not leave the nest when I climbed the tree, and all efforts to induce her to do so were unavailing. Finally I put my handkerchief over her head, and so was able to gently extract the eggs from beneath her. They were fresh, although I had expected to find them heavily incubated. Desiring to test the power of the bird's beak, I placed my finger in the mouth. The pressure of her bill would scarcely have hurt a fly. Just then one of the boys on the ground below tossed me up a large green frog. This I placed in the bird's open mouth. There was an instant's hesitation, then the beak closed and the frog was swallowed. In a Tree-

\* See *Emu*, vol. x., p. 244 (footnote).—EDS.

Swallow's (*Petrochelidon nigricans*) nest, built in a hollow gum branch, I found three young birds, partly fledged, and beside them was huddled a large green frog. Seeing some long feathers projecting from beneath the frog's body, I caught hold of them, and presently pulled out an adult Swallow, the female bird, apparently, which was much ruffled and rather dazed, but still able to fly. Had she endeavoured to resist the frog's intrusion and been overcome? It is certain that, without my aid, she could not have extricated herself. What was the frog's object in entering the nest? I do not think that it meant to make a meal of the young birds, for they were unharmed. I tried to eject the frog, but it crawled further down the hollow. I have observed several unusually large clutches this year, such as Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (*Psittentulus chlorolepidotus*), three eggs; Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*), three; White Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*), four; and Grey Jumper (*Struthidea cinerea*), six eggs. In contrast was the nest of a pair of Crows (*Corvus coronoides*), which I took at Fairymead, in company with Mr. Arnold Young. We were unable to dislodge the bird from the nest until I was half-way up the tree, when she dashed off. Usually a Crow leaves the nest while the intruder is some distance away. This nest contained only one egg, which was discoloured and showed every sign of long incubation. White Cockatoos were "thrown off their balance" this season by the winter rains. They nested in numbers in August, which I have never known them to do before. Usually in this district one can depend on the Cockatoos nesting almost to the day—about the second week in October.—ERNEST D. BARNARD. Gladstone, Queensland, 26/10/12.

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**Flame-breasted Robin in Tasmania.**—In the past autumn and winter I have kept careful records of the Robins, and find that, undoubtedly, the Flame-breast (*Petroica phoenicea*) remains with us all the year, as does the Scarlet-breast (*P. leggii*). On 15th April (1912) my journal records:—"Many Flame-breasts now in the paddocks about the town, some of the males with most vivid breasts; the colour seems, in many instances, brighter in the autumn than in the spring, owing, perhaps, to many of the young males donning their livery in the former season for the first time. 16th May.—Flame-breasts, in both red and grey plumage, feeding in newly-ploughed paddock, in which are also White-fronted Chats (*Ephthianura albiglans*) and Pipits (*Anthus australis*). 6th June.—Flame-breasts still in evidence, feeding in grass paddocks adjoining Don road. 7th June.—Four of the same species in splendid red, accompanied by several greys, seen in the morning, as well as a pair of Scarlet-breasts. 14th June.—A pair of Scarlet-breasts were perched on the overhead electric wire, the male singing. 18th June.—Two pairs Flame-breasts in small paddock, the males in fine red; others seen in a larger paddock. 20th June.—Two male Flame-breasts in plumage, with about half-a-dozen

greys, on a small piece of grass ground (about one-eighth of an acre).  
*26th June*.—Male Flame-breasts in red, with a number of greys of same species, perched on electric wires over the Don road, inside the town boundary of Devonport. *17th July*.—A pair of Scarlet-breasts perched on the same wires. *18th July*.—A number of Flame-breasts, both coloured and plain, feeding in a ploughed paddock, with several Chats and a Pipit. One of the Flame-breasts very tame, feeding within a yard or two of where I stood. In the afternoon a party of five Pipits feeding together in a grass paddock off the Don road, so that several of these migrants have stayed with us. *21st July*.—A number of beautiful Flame-breasts, with several greys, flying from stump to stump, and on the fences of a paddock with crop of young green stuff; the breasts of the full-plumaged males seem to glow as they sit on stumps or boulders, facing the afternoon sun. *25th July*.—A male Scarlet-breast was singing his short strain near the Don road. More Flames seen to-day. (Two days afterwards more of the latter were noticed in a paddock, where also there were numbers of Chats.) *29th July*.—A pair of Flame-breasts observed on the Parade, apparently mated. *30th July*.—Heard a song which was almost certainly that of *P. phoenicea*; singer not actually sighted. *5th August*.—Many Flame-breasts observed in a newly-ploughed paddock; some of these in grey plumage (probably the males of last spring) singing plaintively while perched on stumps. A pair of Pipits in same paddock. *15th August*.—A pair of Flame-breasts, the male in red, chasing each other through the air; other pairs in the vicinity." It will thus be seen that this beautiful Robin is with us in numbers all through the winter, as well as his congener, the Scarlet-breast; in fact, the former far outnumbers the latter in this district in the cold season.—H. STUART DOVE.  
West Devonport (Tas.), 22/8/12.

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**Bird-Migration.**—When travelling by steamer from Brisbane to Darwin, during the third week in October, a few migratory birds were noted. When passing along the inside of the Great Barrier Reef, from Townsville to Thursday Island, Nutmeg-Pigeons (*Myristicivora spilorrhoea*) were seen flying southwards on their way from New Guinea. The number in one company was generally small, from one pair of birds to possibly a dozen or two. The birds flew fast and straight, just above water level. They were silent, and were easily distinguishable at a distance. The large majority of birds seem to make the coast-line of Australia near Thursday Island, and do not go further south than the low-lying coral islands of the Barrier Reef, and usually not as far as the southernmost ones. Other companies make their landfall at different points along the northern coast, but not usually as far as North-Western Australia. To estimate the number of these birds which annually migrate from New Guinea to Northern Australia is difficult. The Nutmeg-Pigeons usually

nest on the low-lying coral islands off the coast. They fly across to the mainland early in the morning, to feed on the wild figs, nutmegs, and other berries, and return, in small flocks, about sundown. In these short journeys they usually fly higher than when migrating. Comparatively few birds nest on the mainland, and the nests are generally situated high above the ground. It is a somewhat bulky structure of twigs, occasionally lined with leaves. One egg forms the clutch.

Another bird which migrates at the same time as these Pigeons is the Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*); but their manner of flight is different. They travel above the water at a height of from 50 to 100 feet, and fly with a wavy motion, similar to the Cuckoo, *Graucalus*, &c., frequently uttering their single note. They fly in flocks, and Cape York seems to be the landing-place of the majority. A lesser number land on the northern coast as far as North-Western Australia. The Bee-eater comes far south, reaching the northern districts of Victoria. It will be found nesting from that portion of the Australian mainland up to Northern Australia—evidence that an enormous number of birds migrate. The Nutmeg-Pigeon and the Bee-eater are the two purely southern birds which are usually seen on their migration. The White-tailed Kingfisher (*Tanysiptera sylvia*) and other species have, as far as I know, not been observed; possibly they travel at a greater altitude, or journey at night. Approximately, it is only 80 miles across Torres Strait; but, although the distance is short, the work of flying against the continuous and sometimes strong south-east trade wind must be considerable.

A few birds alighted on the steamer at different times, having evidently become detached from their company; they remained for some hours, occasionally continuing their southerly flight the same day, but usually staying till night fell. They had always disappeared the following morning. Several Sharp-tailed Stints (*Heteropygia acuminata*) also rested on the vessel, and ran about on the canvas awning or deck-houses looking for food. They generally kept about the vessel for the same length of time as the Bee-eaters. On several occasions I saw flying past the steamer small flocks of Curlews (*Numenius cyanopus*) at a height of about 50 feet or more above the water. These birds did not appear to be more numerous at any one point than another. Evidently the Curlews arrive along the whole of the north coast, but probably are more plentiful at the eastern and western corners. Judging from the number of birds which go down the coast, I should say that the greater number of the migratory waders make the north-west corner of Australia their landfall. I was surprised to see several Long-billed Stone Plovers (*Orthorhamphus magnirostris*) flying southwards; they frequently flew singly, but occasionally in pairs, at a height of about 20 feet above the water. We were generally out of sight of land when the different species of birds were seen, but the number was very small, as it was late in the season, and the majority had already passed south.

When near land I observed Gulls (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*), and further out at sea Terns and Gannets, following shoals of fish. Frigate-Birds (*Tachypetes minor*) were usually not far from land; I have never seen this bird on the water. Although they are such wonderful flyers, the Frigate-Birds are greatly averse to a strong wind, and on such occasions are usually noted on the lee side of some island. In anything approaching a cyclone they take refuge on the mainland or the islands, otherwise they are apt to be blown into the sea and drowned. Dead bodies of the birds are sometimes washed up on the beach after such wind. I wish that some person living on the northern coast of Australia would note the arrival and departure of migrants.

On the way from Queensland, not far from Cairns, the steamer passed close to a small, rocky island, which was not more than 20 feet above sea level, and measured about 25 feet x 10 feet. There was a hollow in the granite rock, and Edible-nest Swifts (*Salangana esculenta*)\* were flying in and out. They were evidently breeding there. When about 10 miles outside the Barrier Reef, opposite the Capricorn Islands, we passed many thousands of Wedge-tailed Petrels (*Puffinus sphenurus*) feeding on and under the water.—D. LE SOUËF. Melbourne.

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### From Magazines, &c.

**South Australian Zoological Society.**—The thirty-fourth annual report of the South Australian Zoological and Acclimatization Society, a copy of which has been received, is an interesting publication, illustrated by fine half-tone plates. The report states that the Zoological Gardens at Adelaide have made good progress, and are highly popular. The gate receipts for the twelve months under review amounted to £1,346 9s. 3d.—a record in the history of the institution. Several important improvements were effected in the course of the year. A new flying cage for Magpies and a new cage for Scrub-Turkeys are mentioned. A list is given of the birds in the gardens. These include specimens of Australian Eagles, Owls, Parrots, Cranes, Pelicans, Swans, Ducks, and many smaller birds. The collection is of considerable interest.

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**Queensland Museum Memoirs.**—The *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum*, vol. i., was issued on 27th November, 1912, the editor being Dr. R. Hamlyn Harris, D.Sc., F.L.S., &c., the Director, who is local secretary of the R.A.O.U. for Queensland. The volume is well printed, and the illustrations are excellent. One of the plates depicts a bower of the Golden Bower-Bird (*Prionodura newtoniana*), from the Atherton Scrub, North Queensland, which was recently mounted in the bird gallery at the Museum. The

\* More probably the Grey-rumped Swiftlet (*S. francica*).—EDS.