

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTREL (*Ægialitis melanops*).—My previous notes lead me to think *melanops* was a summer resident with us, and that their winter movements depended on the severity or mildness of the season. My experience of the last two years leaves me in a state of uncertainty. Time and further watching will be required before I can come to a decision about them.

AUSTRALIAN DOTTREL (*Peltohyas australis*) is a very irregular visitor; have only seen it twice in two years, 23rd and 25th September, 1902—three together on the first occasion, and nine, which is my record number, on the second, of which nine a Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*), swooping with terrible swiftness, carried off one before they had gone 200 yards.

LITTLE WHIMBREL (*Mesoscolopax minutus*).—I estimated there were between two and three thousand on an open lagoon on 9th February, 1903, which number came down to seven hundred a week later, and by the end of the month was reduced to *nil*. The following spring I only saw five and twenty, and these were distributed between the 17th and 30th October, with no further record till 6th March, 1904, when a solitary bird passed, calling, overhead. The big lot I watched with my glasses. It was a most interesting scene; they were crowded down on to the water's edge, the birds on the outskirts being pushed into the water. They were all busily engaged preening their feathers, evidently having fed, keeping up the while a constant chattering as they pecked at one another in their endeavours to find elbow (or rather wing) room.

GREENSHANK (*Glottis nebularius*).—Single birds about during January, 1903; saw two together on 13th November following, and on 18th February, 1904, I heard them calling as they passed overhead at night.

LITTLE STINT (*Limonites ruficollis*).—6th November, 1903, with my field-glasses watched a party of seven on some swampy ground.

SHARP-TAILED STINT (*Heteropygia acuminata*).—None in the spring of 1902, did not see any till 11th January, 1903, and then only in very small numbers. On 17th October, 1903, sixteen appeared and constituted my only note of them for the summer of 1903-4.

[Such notes as those Mr. Berney has furnished are most valuable, *re* bird habits and some of the abstruse problems concerning migration, the latter of which should be more closely studied by members of the Aust. O.U. It does not redound to our credit that so little has been done as to the last-named phase of ornithology. In what has already been contributed to *The Emu* there is some valuable material available, and it would be a step in the interests of science if some enthusiast would tabulate the results already recorded. Has not too much attention been given to mere "collecting," which perforce introduces a bitter personal element, and the really scientific phase—observation, close observation, and still closer observation, *re* life and habits—been overlooked?—H.K.]

BUSH-CHATS AND SONG-LARKS.—Last summer flocks of beautiful Tricoloured Bush-Chats (*Ephthianura tricolor*) visited the district of Murtoa, and this winter a few Black-breasted Song-Larks (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*) remained, but they were without the black markings on the breast, and did not sing.—J. A. HILL. Kewell, 16/8/04.