

Haliaetus leucogaster. White-breasted Sea Eagle.—This Eagle was seen more often than the preceding species. At Rockhampton it is sometimes called the "Silver King," but more usually is known as the "Fish Hawk." Several were noted during the trip on the Fitzroy River. At Gracemere a pair had a nest in a tall tree rising above the scrub. One of the eaglets had fallen out of the nest and was dead on the ground at the foot of the tree. Beneath the tree were also found the skeletons of several Water Tortoises (*Chelodina longicollis*) and the wing of a Coot (*Fulica atra*) and at a little distance the skeleton of a large Eel-pike (*Muraenesox*) was picked up. All these had doubtless been obtained by the birds from the adjacent lake, but whether they were killed by the birds or picked up dead there was nothing to show. Several of these Eagles were seen at Yeppoon and Messrs. Alexander and Chisholm saw a bird in immature plumage pick up a sea-snake from the beach and fly away with it. The tail of the snake was held in the talons of the Eagle, and though the snake endeavoured to lift its head to attack the bird, it seemed quite unable to raise it high enough. [In the *Emu*, Vol. VII., p. 172, Mr. E. M. Cornwall recorded that these Eagles live largely on sea-snakes on the islands off Mackay.]

Haliastur sphenurus. Whistling Eagle.—Many were seen in various places, especially on the launch trip on the Fitzroy River, when a few nests were seen in the high trees on the banks and birds going to them. Several nests were also seen about Gracemere. On the lagoon at the Botanic Gardens Mr. Alexander saw one swoop down into the reeds and reappear with a dark object in its talons. With this it settled on a post and proceeded to enjoy a meal. Through field-glasses Messrs. Alexander and Gaukrodger watched it tearing off feathers which appeared to be black, so the bird was probably a Coot, of which there were great numbers on the lagoon. About Rockhampton this bird is generally called the "Kite-Hawk."

Haliastur indus. White-headed Sea-eagle.—Numerous about Yeppoon, where they frequented especially the mangroves at the mouths of the creeks. A new nest without eggs was found on North Keppel Island in a Eucalyptus tree. This eagle is smaller than the White-breasted Sea-eagle, but a more showy bird, and with the sun in a favourable position its white head, neck and chest and the bright rufous colour of the body give it a very handsome appearance.

(To be Concluded.)

Visit to Coomooboolaroo

By W. B. ALEXANDER, M.A., C.F.A.O.U., Sherwood,
near Brisbane.

Only two members, Mr. W. B. Barnard and the writer, were able to accept the invitation, given by Mr. C. A. Barnard to all those present at Rockhampton to visit him at Coomooboolaroo, after the conclusion of the conference. The beautiful old homestead standing on the bank of the long double lagoon is familiar to many members of the R.A.O.U., and, even in a district where the inhabitants are almost all hospitable, the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Barnard is famous. Under these circumstances it is

unnecessary to add that the visitors greatly enjoyed their brief visit.

The country was in a dry condition, and bird-life was, in consequence, not very plentiful. Amongst the blue lilies on the lagoon there was a brood of young Wood Ducks (*Chenonetta jubata*) with their parents, and a brood of young Black Ducks (*Anas superciliosa*) was seen on one of the dams.

In the large trees along the creek-bed various birds were nesting, including Grey-breasted Wood Swallows (*Artamus hypoleucus*), Whistling Eagles (*Haliastur sphenurus*), and Collared Sparrowhawks (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*). The writer was fortunate enough to witness an incident in the domestic life of the latter birds. The female was sitting on the nest in the evening, only the tip of her tail visible from below, when the little male appeared with a mouse grasped in his left foot. He settled in a tree near the nest, and uttered a whistling call, whereupon the female left the nest and joined him. They sat side by side on a limb for a moment, then flew off together, and as they did so the female snatched the mouse from her mate. She flew back to the bough, holding it in her right foot, and proceeded to devour it.

Perhaps the rarest bird seen at Coomooboolaroo on this occasion was the Black-eared Cuckoo (*Mesocallius osculans*). An adult was seen in a clearing in the scrub, and later a young bird was seen being fed by a pair of Purple-backed Wrens (*Malurus assimilis*). I am informed that the Variegated Wren of this district which was described by Mr. H. L. White as *Malurus lamberti dawsonianus* is now regarded as a form of *M. assimilis*, though its describer stated it was just as distinct from *assimilis* as it was from *lamberti*, and geographical considerations would suggest the latter as its nearer ally. The form is figured in the *Emu*, Vol. XVI., p. 69. To return to the young Cuckoo which these Wrens were feeding, it may be mentioned that it uttered a low twittering note very much like that of its foster-parents.

At Tambourine Mountain

By A. H. CHISHOLM, C.F.A.O.U., Sydney.

Tambourine Mountain, a spur of the Macpherson Range, lying approximately thirty miles south-east of Brisbane, has long been a favourite of naturalists. In the old days the jungles there were very rich in a wide variety of wild life, and even now, when settlement has developed and is still developing, the old mount has much of charm to offer to students of all branches of natural history.

This was impressed upon those members of the R.A.O.U. who visited Tambourine on returning from Central Queensland. They