

It is practically impossible adequately to record the movements of all the migratory and semi-migratory birds, so, it has been suggested to me that the district correspondents pay particular attention to about twenty birds, increasing the number from time to time. While continuing to record the movements of *all* birds, if we give the following ones particular attention some good results should follow. I have left out the sea birds until we have more coastal correspondents.

BIRDS TO BE SPECIALLY NOTED.

- The Sacred Kingfisher.
- „ Australian Bee-eater.
- „ Spine-tailed Swift.
- „ Welcome Swallow.
- „ Fairy Martin.
- „ Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.
- „ White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater.
- „ Australian Reed-warbler.
- All the Wood-swallows.
- „ Cuckoos.
- „ Robins.

We badly need more correspondents, as members will see by the map. An hour or two once in three months is all the time that is necessary to write up what one sees in the bird world during the quarter. If you have no news, we are no worse off; but if you have let us put you on the map. Continuous information is the best, but intermittent news is useful.

A New Bird for the Australian List? In the *Australian Zoologist*, Vol. IV., p. 16, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, ex-President R.A.O.U. writing of a visit paid by him to Booby Island, about 20 miles west of Thursday Island, Torres Strait, in June, 1924, states:—

“In a rift in the rock there are a few *Ficus* trees, and from one of them a large bird was flushed. It was light, almost white, in colour, bluish on the head and back, and had a long tail. Mr. Norgate, the lighthouse-keeper, told me that it was a New Guinea Pheasant, and was not uncommonly seen passing over from New Guinea to the mainland. It was evidently one of the large Pheasant Coucals of New Guinea, but no specimen has been recorded as taken in Australia.”

The description given agrees much better with that of a Channelbill (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) than with any known species of Pheasant Coucal. It is true there are Pheasant Coucals in the New Guinea region partly white in plumage, but these are confined to the Moluccas, New Ireland and the Solomon Islands. It is surely most improbable that a large bird “not uncommonly seen” migrating to Cape York should never have been obtained by the numerous ornithologists who have collected there. The fact that the bird was seen to fly out of a fig-tree also strongly suggests that it was a Channelbill, as these birds are so partial to figs and fig-trees that it is unusual to see them in any other kind of tree in localities where fig-trees are growing.—
W. B. ALEXANDER.