

After seeing some Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*) and a couple of Robins about four miles before we reached "Hotham Heights," we did not see a bird until we were on our way back to Omeo. The sunsets on Hotham were riots of colour of indescribable splendour, enhanced by the delicate tinting on the snow-covered heights of the surrounding mountains, which reflected the red, gold, and purple shades of the clouds above them. The view from Mt. Loch will always be a cherished memory of the artistry of the Great Creator.

It is hard to realise amid the dust and noise of Melbourne that away on the slopes of Hotham there is a great white mantle of snow where one can enjoy the rare atmosphere and strenuous health-giving snow-sports of ski-ing.

Arrival of Migrant.—The first migrant of the season was noticed on the morning of August 18—a Pipit (*Anthus australis*). The bird was at the edge of a grass paddock near the beach. The morning was beautifully calm and sunny, although a high westerly wind developed later. It is seldom that the Pipit antedates the Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) in coming over the Straits, but he has done so this season. None of the species had been seen since the end of March, when the whole lot left, seeming to have an inkling of the long, severe winter which followed. The one noted above was in very spruce light-tinted plumage, as if just arrived from a genial summer clime.—
H. STUART DOVE.

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Range of White-backed Magpie.—I have seen an occasional specimen of *Gymnorhina hypoleuca* in this district, but they are few and far between. These bear out the footnote in *The Emu*, Vol. XXVIII., p. 176, unless indeed they have been pets brought from other districts and liberated here, of which I am doubtful. I recollect a fine bird living in the paddocks close around our house, because he was first brought prominently under my notice by being fiercely attacked by four or five Black-backed Magpies (*G. tibicen*), but after the scrimmage all seemed to live in harmony. I was surprised recently to see some Black-backed Magpies eating corn from the cobs of maize standing in the fields.—
(MISS) F. M. IRBY, Casino, N.S.W., June, 1929.