

"It's all off," "Keep on shunting," "Keep on choking," "Keep on shoving," "It's ready," "Wish you'd keep it," "Keep on jumping," "Keep on joining," "It's not so hot," "It's a beauty," "This afternoon."

The Yellow Oriole calls, like a Pitta, at regular intervals for the space of from half an hour to two hours at a time, from the same tree, varying the call after repeating each several times. Sometimes the variation consists in dropping or changing a single syllable, as some of the above phrases indicate. The effect is most intriguing. Mr. Petrie gives "Bull-voiced Oriole" (from its deep, rich notes) as a local name, and Duganjullol as the aboriginal (Bloomfield) name of *O. flavocinctus*.—C. H. H. JERRARD, Blackdown, Gayndah, Qld.

**Crested Terns in Port Phillip Bay.**—Members of the Bird Observers' Club, on their excursion from Black Rock to Beaumaris on February 21, 1931, had an opportunity of seeing a flock of 150 or more Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*) at very close quarters. The birds were on the rocky shore of Rickett's Point, quite a number showing the pretty mottled immature plumage. The old birds were fishing and feeding their young with small fish at frequent intervals, both old and young birds keeping up a ceaseless croaking and screeching noise. It was possible to get within a few feet of them so intent were they on their domestic duties. It was most interesting to see the parent birds drop like stones into the water, and after a very short immersion immediately to fly with a small fish and pick out their own young with never-failing accuracy. It was not till a stranger went within very close range of the nearest birds that they were disturbed and then they rose *en masse* like a most beautiful silver cloud—the white under surface and scimitar-like wings making a lovely sight in the bright sunlight against the blue of the sea and sky. One imagines such a sight on the Barrier Reef magnified many times, but it is surely good fortune to see it even in such a minor fashion at Melbourne's own front door. These birds had probably nested on one of the near islands and may have got out of their course during the previous couple of days of rough weather, or have been attracted to the spot by a shoal of small fish—perhaps both.

Fishing also at the same spot were a small number of Pied Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax varius*), their wet plumage scintillating with metallic hues—a larger number of Silver Gulls (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*) and a few Pacific Gulls (*Gabianus pacificus*), about half in immature plumage. The last-named watched every opportunity to steal the fish from the Terns, and met with a good deal of success.—M. L. WIGAN, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.