

- 1950.—Chisholm, A. H.: 'Meditations on Mystery Birds', *Wild Life*, July-August. (Summarizes the written history of *Atrichornis* and gives, with illustrations, detailed field-notes, mainly those of Jackson and the author.)
- 1951.—Chisholm, A. H.: 'Rufous Scrub-bird: Fibro-plasterer', *Wild Life*, February. (Gives technologist's report on lining of nest, with two photographs.)
- 1951.—Serventy, D. L., and Whittell, H. M.: *Handbook of the Birds of Western Australia*, 2nd edn., pp. 252-55. (Carries additional notes on *A. clamosus* newly obtained from manuscript notes by J. Gilbert.)
- 1951.—Mayr, E., and Amadon, D.: 'A Classification of Recent Birds', *Amer. Mus. Nov.*, April, pp. 1-42. (Refers, at p. 12, to *Atrichornithidae*, scrub-birds, and *Menuridae*, lyrebirds, as 'primitive Australian families' having only one genus each, and says that although the two groups are very dissimilar in appearance they share a number of anatomical peculiarities and are 'probably nearer to each other than either is to any other group'.)
- 1951.—Whittell, H. M.: 'A Review of the Work of John Gilbert in Western Australia', Pt. 4, *Emu*, July, 51, 17-29. (Gives, at pp. 23-4, informative field-notes obtained from Gilbert manuscripts discovered in the Queensland Museum.)

Popular articles on the Rufous Scrub-bird, covering material already published, have also been written by S. W. Jackson in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (October 31, 1931), *Bank Notes* (November, 1934), and *World's News* (November 28, 1934).

Stray Feathers

Dusky Robin and Yellow-winged Honeyeater lay in one nest.—On the morning of October 6, 1946, while working my way up a deep, rough gully, I came across what appeared to be the foundations of a honeyeater's nest.

It was situated in the top of a small dead gorse bush at about three feet from the ground, near running water, and among tea-tree and wattle scrub which was growing along the creek. I passed on, making a mental note of the position.

One week later I happened to be in the same area, and went over to see how the building was progressing. To my surprise I found six eggs in the nest, which had been completed. Three of them were definitely eggs of the Dusky Robin (*Amurodryas vittata*) and the other three those of the Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*). Although the nest had apparently been deserted and no birds were seen taking any interest in it during my observation, the identity was certain.

The three Robin eggs were the typical olive green of this species, all with faint fawn markings around the larger end. The Honeyeater eggs were also typical of the species.

Two of the Honeyeater eggs were slightly broken and had apparently been laid first, as the remaining one and the three Robin eggs were more or less on top—there had apparently been a 'squabble' for possession.

The nest was a cup-shaped structure about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the cavity and 5 inches over-all. It was composed of dry grass and leaves, the only lining being some fine rootlets.

This is the first time I have ever heard of such an instance, and would be very interested to hear of any other similar cases.—R. H. GREEN, Antill Ponds, Tas., 24/8/51.

Grey-crowned Babblers near Sydney.—Late in the afternoon of September 2, 1951, I was driving along Murray Farm Road, Beecroft, when I noticed a party of Grey-crowned Babblers (*Pomatostomus temporalis*) crossing the road. I stopped the car and walked back to observe them more closely. Some nine or ten birds were in the flock, and half of them were still on the side of the road. The locality is about 12 miles north-west of Sydney and consists largely of open forest, patches of scrubby undergrowth, and cultivation paddocks. A search of the area by several observers a week later failed to reveal the presence of the Babblers.

The Grey-crowned Babbler has been recorded as a rare straggler to the Sydney district. Earlier records, and the distribution of the species within a radius of some 80 miles of Sydney, have been chronicled in *The Emu* (vol. 42, 1943, p. 187; vol. 50, 1951, p. 209).—HORACE A. SALMON, Ryde, N.S.W., 20/9/51.

A Tree-creeper Comes to Town.—A busy street in the heart of a great city is scarcely the place one would expect to find a bird usually associated with forest country. On the morning of August 14, 1951, Mr. J. R. Kinghorn, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, noticed the body of a White-throated Tree-creeper (*Climacteris leucophaea*) wedged against the bracket on the inner side of the front bumper-bar of a car standing near the intersection of Park and Elizabeth Streets, Sydney. The bird appeared to have been dead only a few hours and its feathers were clean. The occupants of the car had travelled that morning from Wollongong, some 50 miles south of Sydney. The White-throated Tree-creeper is well distributed throughout the area traversed by the car. The bird could have been caught on the bumper-bar as it flew low across a road from one patch of forest to another. I cannot remember ever having seen the species feeding on the ground and certainly not on a road. If the unfortunate tree-creeper had fallen from the car, either in a populated area or a locality where it did not normally occur, and been found by someone interested in bird life, its presence would have created a minor ornithological puzzle. The bird was made into a skin which now reposes in the reference collection of the Australian Museum—specimen no. 0.38780, female.—K. A. HINDWOOD, Sydney, N.S.W., 29/8/51.

Storm Casualties.—Sea birds off the Portland coast have been experiencing a bad time in this year's winter gales. At Nelson a White-capped Albatross (*Diomedea cauta*) was found dead on the beach and sent to the National Museum. Later a Wandering Albatross (*D. exulans*) also came ashore. In Bridgewater Bay, another Wandering Albatross was picked up, and close to the Portland Town boundary a Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*). With the exception of one Albatross which was very 'ripe' these birds were sent to the Museum. One of the prions (*Pachyptila* sp.) was found two miles inland but the identifying bill had been destroyed—probably by foxes. Those animals account for most storm-washed birds unless collected very soon after being beached.

On the Bridgewater beach late in July, Mr. C. Beauglehole and I saw twenty-one Red-capped Dotterels (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), four Hooded Dotterels (*C. cucullatus*), and four Double-banded Dotterels (*C. bicinctus*) feeding together, though after being disturbed the Hooded birds went off on their own. On three of the Double-banded species the black and chestnut bars were particularly clear and distinct. Close to the Dotterels were five Pied Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and a Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*), the latter a real surprise in such company.—NOEL F. LEARMONTH, Portland, Vic., 5/9/51.

News and Notes

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

The following dates have been arranged with Kodaks for the interstate showings of the Photographic Exhibition.

Hobart—January 14-26, 1952.

Launceston—February 5-16.

Adelaide—March 3-15.

Perth—April 7-19.

The Exhibition was shown in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney during October-November, and before the publication of this issue.

UNION'S FINANCIAL YEAR

Consequent on the adoption of the new Articles of Association, at the Congress in Melbourne, in October, 1951, the Union's financial year now commences on January 1 in each year, not July 1, as previously. New members will commence membership as from the beginning of the calendar year in future. The dates of issue of parts of *The Emu* will be in keeping with the calendar year and part 1 of volume 52 will be issued early in 1952. Volume 51 will conclude with this present part, but subscriptions already