

pretty duet lasting several seconds was done with such precision as to give the impression of a single bird singing.

It is obvious that a paraphrase of Allen's remarks could refer to at least two Australian birds—the Magpie-Lark and the Whipbird. To these, I feel, the Spotted Pardalote could be added.

Edward A. Armstrong, in his *Bird Display and Behaviour*, quotes many instances of various types of duets and even of 'community singing.' I would suggest that the term *complementary duet* be reserved for, and applied to, that type of duet in which a pair of birds, uttering different notes at spaced intervals, call "with such precision as to give the impression of a single bird singing."

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**Banded Plover Increasing.**—Tasmania is singularly favoured by having a large population of Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novæ-hollandiæ*) dispersed through the settled parts of the island, and at one time the bird was considered—as may have been the actual case—to be contributing to the serious decline in the numbers of the smaller and more handsome Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*); but during the past three years it has been obvious that the latter species is not only holding its own but indeed re-establishing its position. Paddocks which held but three or four pairs a few years ago now support small flocks. This year I made some counts, chiefly through the Midlands and near Launceston in the north, and I make it a practice wherever I go now to check their numbers whenever possible. A flock of 15 birds was seen recently at Evandale; another of 12 at Perth; one of seven near Melton Mowbray; one of seven at Bridgewater. Counts of five and six are common, and in fact odd pairs are seen in places where none has been observed for several years. Whilst my records and observations reflect a positive increase in numbers, I am not able to give the reason for it. The Spur-winged Plover is still in direct competition with it as regards food, and both species are fully protected. The explanation may be found in the larger clutches of eggs which the Banded Plover appears to lay, for a clutch of five is not unusual, four being the average, whilst the average clutch of the Spur-winged Plover is three.—MICHAEL SHARLAND, Hobart, Tas., 26/8/52.

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