

(*Rhipidura leucophrys*).

In the Melbourne University grounds, on two successive evenings in October 1951, at the same time and place, a bird, which was believed to be the same individual, was heard to mimic the first five species. At Hawthorn, in November 1952, a Song Thrush, perched in a dense shrub and not actually seen, was heard engaged in soft song. After a variety of normal soft calls, there was heard what could only be described as an obvious attempt to mimic the 'sweet pretty creature' call of the Willie Wagtail. An interesting feature of this was that in the deeper ringing notes the timbre peculiar to the Wagtail was achieved, whilst the final shriller and half-chattering notes were not so aptly caught. The 'amateurish' quality of the call was, in fact, the most convincing evidence that it was a genuine example of mimicry.

Little seems to have been published about the Song Thrush on such aspects as Victorian distribution and population, and a perusal of the *Handbook* supplies various points on which ecological comparisons with the species in Britain are still to be made.

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**Red-tailed Tropic-bird at Port Kembla, N.S.W.**—A Red-tailed Tropic-bird (*Phaëthon rubricaudus*) was seen by us while on the Five Islands (Port Kembla, N.S.W.) during the early afternoon of November 13, 1955.

Approaching from the north at about 150 feet, the bird resembled a small Gannet in its very whiteness and style of flight. Overhead, the red tail streamers were immediately obvious. Fortunately, it showed considerable curiosity and circled about us several times at a very convenient altitude for observation, affording excellent views of its immaculate plumage, heavy orange-red bill and red tail plumes which were at least a foot long. The black facial marking and black feet were also conspicuous. After a leisurely inspection of the extensive Silver Gull and Crested Tern colonies on neighbouring No. 2 Island, the bird returned to us and circled once more before departing. Its steady circling flight over the Gull colony was once interrupted by a sudden upward flutter resembling the described aerial antics of courting birds. The weather was warm and sunny with a light south-west wind.

The known history of the species in south-eastern Australia is summarized in two notes by K. A. Hindwood (*Emu*, vol. 47, p. 57, and vol. 55, p. 160).—J. D. GIBSON and A. R. SEFTON, Thirroul, N.S.W., 6/12/55.