

Only pale-phase Pomarines were observed. As none of them had elongate central rectrices, it is clear that the nature of the tail will not serve to identify the two northern skuas at this season. Fortunately they are distinguishable on other characters (notwithstanding an assertion to the contrary in *The Handbook of British Birds*). The Pomarine is distinctly larger than the Arctic and relatively more robust. It has none of the tern-like ease of the Arctic, its heavier flight more resembling that of Great Skuas. And like the latter it has a small patch of white towards the tip of the wing; while this is not so marked as in the Great Skua, it is nevertheless discernible at considerable distances. The creamy white nuchal band seems broader and generally more prominent than in pale-phase Arctic Skuas.

It is interesting that the Pomarine is present here only for the period when the Arctic is most abundant. Perhaps there are two separate immigrations of northern skuas, an earlier consisting solely of Arctics and a later of both species.

**Egretta sacra.** Reef Egret.

One flew past 2½ miles west of Fremantle, late in the morning of April 11, 1958. It was coming from the direction of Rottnest.

*Zoology Department, University of Western Australia. Present address:  
Western Australian Museum, Perth.  
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**Display-singing of the Australian Raven.**—Commenting on the action of Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe in placing the Raven among the singing birds, Robert Hall (*The Useful Birds of Southern Australia*, 217; Melb. 1907) remarked that a little voice education would do much good in this case, and probably efface the heavy blot of prejudice against the bird. The cawing of Ravens, *Corvus coronoides*, certainly does not rank high in the popular estimation of bird songs. Even less pleasing is the high-pitched wailing call occasionally given by a solitary bird as it flies on its way.

It remains to be recorded, however, that the Raven can indeed sing and that its song compares favourably with that of a number of other species of birds. On a fine sunny morning in winter a lone Raven which is flying slowly at a considerable height will sing "wa-a-ah" in varying pitch that is quite pleasing to the human ear. The singing is interspersed with a distinctive display flight consisting of deliberate fluttering of the wings close to the body and fanning of the tail during which the bird quickly rolls on its back and then returns to the normal flight position.

A somewhat similar behaviour in the European Raven, *C. corax*, has been reported by Prof. Walther Emcis in a paper on "Beobachtungen im Brutgebiet des Kolkraben" (*Orn. Mitt.*, 3 (10), 217-222; 1951).—E. F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 29/11/62.