

the window of business premises in Alice Springs on November 26, 1963. So Swifts do occur in the Centre. Still it seems obvious, from their numbers before a storm in South Australia, that the recruiting must be mainly either from the West Coast or the East Coast of Australia. Do the birds follow an insect food-trail from these distant sources that leads them eventually to the skirts of the storm, or do they fly foodless over hundreds of miles impelled in their way by "instinct", triggered by barometric detection?

Is it possible that the same factor, whatever it may be, that guides migration from the northern hemisphere, is operative in this flocking to a storm centre? Is it a compelling, an irresistible force?

#### REFERENCES

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**Down colouring of some Australian parrots.**—On 31/12/1964, at the kind invitation of Mr A. C. Hunt of ('Cullwulla', Inverell, N.S.W.), I carefully examined two 11- and 12-day old Gang-Gang Cockatoos, *Callocephalon fimbriatum*, bred by him. They were sparsely covered in pale yellow down, and their skin was a pale pink flesh colour. This would seem to refute the statement of Hedges 1926, later copied by Cayley 1938, that the newly hatched young of the Gang-Gang Cockatoo are covered with rusty-red down.

In addition to the Gang-Gang Cockatoo, I have personally observed that the young of the following species are covered in pale yellow down: Cockatiel, *Leptolophus hollandicus*, Little Corella, *Kakatoe sanguinea*, White Cockatoo, *K. galerita*, Pink Cockatoo, *K. leadbeateri*, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus funereus*, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, *C. banksii*, and Glossy Black Cockatoo, *C. lathami*.

As regards the rest of the Australian cockatoos, it seems likely that the White-tailed Black Cockatoo, *C. baudinii*, and the two forms of the Corella, *Kakatoe tenuirostris* and *pastinator*, would have yellow down. I have not been able to discover the down colouring of the Great Palm Cockatoo, *Probosciger aterrimus*. The young of the Galah, *Kakatoe roseicapilla*, are clad in pink down, not white as recently stated by Forshaw 1963.

It would seem that the young of the rest of the Australian Psittaciformes have either light grey or dark grey down, at least a broad cross-section of the Loriinae, Platycercinae, Pezoporinae, and Alisterinae certainly do, while I have not seen young of the Opsittinae or of the Australian members of Palaeornithinae, *Eclectus* and *Geoffroyus*.—JOHN COURTNEY, Swan Vale, via Glen Innes, N.S.W.