

carried out elsewhere. This would seem the perfect group activity for a local Naturalists club or similar body.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the assistance and advice of Messrs Jack Devitt, K. A. Hindwood, A. R. McGill and A. R. Sefton. To Mrs. Thistle Y. Stead and Dr. Roger Carolin of the Department of Botany, University of Sydney, I owe thanks for botanical information used in this study.

REFERENCES

- Eddy, R. J. 1959. Heath-Wrens in Central Victoria. *The Australian Bird Watcher*, Vol. 1, No. 2: 42.
Hickey, J. J. 1943. *A Guide to Bird Watching*, 81.
Hindwood, K. A. and McGill, A. R. 1958. *The Birds of Sydney*, 77.
Sefton, A. R. and Devitt, J. A. (1962). Additions to the Birds recorded from the Illawarra District. *Emu*, Vol. 62, 186.
*1st Battalion Pacific Islands Regiment
Taurama Barracks, Port Moresby, Papua.
Manuscript received June 15, 1965.*

Silver Gulls Hawking.—The Silver Gull, *Larus novae-hollandiae*, is a common bird round the Tasmanian coast and it penetrates inland wherever suitable food is available. The Tamar River with its extensive tidal mud flats supports a considerable number of Gulls throughout the year and hundreds live in the Launceston area, about thirty miles inland from the river mouth.

At 1800 hours, just before sunset on February 22nd, 1966, between one and two hundred Silver Gulls were hawking over the Launceston city area. The evening was warm and humid with no apparent breeze and air currents, rising above the city, were apparently carrying insects high into the atmosphere. The aerial acrobatics of the Gulls suggested that they were feeding on these insects.

The Gulls ranged in altitude from an estimated three hundred feet to almost out of sight when viewed with the naked eye. Though their flight direction was irregular their distribution remained fairly constant. No calling could be heard coming from the flying birds and they seemed to be completely engrossed in their feeding activities.

Starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*, were also feeding on these insects. From their perches on the tops of tall trees or buildings they took short ascending flights to capture an insect and return again to perch. But none were seen to hawk or attain the altitude of the Gulls.

W. R. Wheeler and Ina Watson (*The Emu*, Vol. 63, pp. 128-9) record the accounts of three authors who separately observed Silver Gulls feeding on the wing but these recorded flights were limited in altitude on only about thirty-five feet.—R. H. GREEN, Launceston, Tasmania.