

- (b) Differed in having the head and back grey with a slight olive wash. The underparts were creamy with a few dark streaks on the breast.
- (c) Differed in having the crown and back olive, the sides of the neck an even bright yellow and the entire underparts a bright golden-yellow, with a few dark feathers on the breast.
- (d) Differed in having the crown grey, the back brownish-grey with an olive wash and the rump golden-olive. The underparts were cream with some dusky streaks on the breast.

The last wagtail was seen but no description obtained on January 11, 1966.

Previous records for the Yellow Wagtail in Australia relate to a bird collected at Bimbi, on the Dawson River, central eastern Queensland, on June 10, 1905 (specimen in the Australian Museum, Sydney) and an example seen on December 7, 1960, near Derby, north-west Australia (*Western Australian Naturalist*, 8: 36-38).

The Yellow Wagtail has a wide distribution throughout the northern hemisphere where several subspecies are recognized. It is a migratory species and winters in tropical regions.

My thanks for generous help from Mr F. T. H. Smith, Kew, Victoria. Brig. H. R. Officer, Olinda, Victoria. Mr K. Hindwood, Lindfield, N.S.W.

H. B. Gill, M.S.216 Innisfail, North Queensland.
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Crimson Rosella catches insect on the wing.—At approximately 2 p.m., May 30, 1967, I flushed a flock of Eastern Rosellas, *Platycercus eximius*, and Crimson Rosellas, *Platycercus elegans*, at a farm two miles from Blanket Flat, via Crookwell, N.S.W. The flock was feeding on grass-seeds on the ground and the Eastern Rosellas were predominant, there being only two or three Crimson Rosellas. The birds flew to a nearby Eucalypt of about 40 feet in height and, as I was quite close to it, I began walking over to investigate further. Suddenly a Crimson Rosella in full adult plumage darted out of the uppermost branches of the tree for a distance of about ten feet and flew straight back to the same branches. The movement was in keeping with the parrot's flight—swift and direct. On reaching the tree a few seconds later I saw the bird holding an insect in one of its claws while it proceeded to dismember and eat it piece by piece. I could not determine the species of insect.

It is generally known that the Crimson Rosella eats grubs and various other insects; however, this struck me as being a most unusual method for it, being a member of the Psittaciformes, to obtain this form of food.—TONY STOKES, c/- Mr Ryrie, Blanket Flat, via Crookwell, N.S.W.

Unusual Kite behaviour.—During the winter of 1966 a pair of Black-shouldered Kites, *Elanus notatus*, frequented an area of open woodland backing the ocean beach at Bellambi some 45 miles south of Sydney. On several occasions during this period they were observed to cross the intervening beach and hover in characteristic fashion above the open sea. The birds preferred the unbroken water beyond the outermost line of breakers and at times were at least 300 yards from the shore. At intervals one of the birds would drop to within a few feet of the surface then rise almost immediately to the original hovering position. At no time was either bird seen to make contact with the water.

I can find no record of Black-shouldered Kites foraging over open water in literature at my disposal. As the Bellambi birds were only noted over the sea on calm sunny days and were generally closer to the surface than when over the land, could it be possible that they were not foraging at all but merely gazing at their own reflections in the glassy water below? Both birds had left the area by early September.—A. R. SEFTON, 15 Station Street, Thirroul, N.S.W.

New food record for Stubble-quail.—In May, 1966, the opportunity was taken to examine the crop-contents of twenty Stubble-Quail, *Coturnix pectoralis*, shot by a quail-shooter on and around a patch of bare, newly-ploughed ground in the Rockbank district near Melbourne. The birds were apparently greatly attracted to the bare ground for, though when flushed they alighted in the heavy grass areas surrounding the patch, they could again be flushed from the bare area soon afterwards. Nineteen of the birds were shot on or close to the bare ground but one was shot in heavy grassland nearly a mile from it. Nineteen of the birds had in their crops only the corms of the onion grass, *Romulea rosea*. I can find no record of this material as a food eaten by quail, though it is a favourite food of the White Cockatoo. It could only be available to the quail on the ploughing of new ground in this area and only in comparatively recent years for it is an introduced plant.

The twentieth bird had in its crop only the tips of the leaves of a small composite plant which grows on the plains. It seems fair to assume that this was the bird shot at some distance from the ploughed ground.—JACK HYETT, Whitehorse Road, Croydon, Vic.