

his opinion that the industry should be maintained by the islanders, who, as he had stated previously, were very largely dependent upon it. It was not large enough to withstand mainland labour or enterprise. He recommended, further, the proclamation of other small islands as Mutton-Bird reserves at once. Cat Island and Rum Island were instanced, and he thought that if these small islands were not even worked, the rookeries upon them should be preserved as breeding grounds. He recommended that every person employed upon Mutton-Bird reserves during the Mutton-Bird season should be licensed. He thought the present fee (10s. and 5s.) small enough. At present the license fee worked out at about 2s. per thousand, while the value of the Mutton-Birds was £5 per thousand. He thought, however, that a license fee of 10s. should only be charged to persons over the age of 12 years, instead of 10 years. He further urged that the season should open four days later, on 24th March instead of 20th March. This would reduce the take somewhat, and the birds taken would be of better quality, and better prices would rule. It would be wise also to prevent birds being taken after dark. Any person found with a light on the rookeries at night should be liable to a heavy penalty. He would improve the reserves by commencing holes for birds where they were nesting indifferently, and propagate natural cover. He further recommended substituting 15th September for 1st September, thus allowing persons to land upon the Mutton-Bird reserves to within a few days of the return of the birds.

The erection of birders' sheds should also be attended to, and better provision should also be made to prevent any egging and capture of old birds, and in enforcing the regulations generally. Mr. Lord thinks the constable at Cape Barren Island should be provided with a motor boat, to enable him to get about speedily and in all weathers. He recommended provision being made for inspection during the birding season (March to May), and thought dressing, packing, and curing should be done under supervision. The birds for 1908 season might safely be estimated at from 1,000,000 to 1,030,000, and the value (including feathers, oil, &c.), at over £6,000.

His last recommendation in respect to the Mutton-Bird industry was for the prohibition of dogs landing on reserves.—*The Examiner*, Launceston, 4/9/08.

### Bird Prosecutions under the "Game Acts," Victoria.

MR. C. W. Maclean, engineer in charge of the Ports and Harbours Department, is also honorary executive officer of the Victorian *Game Acts*, which are administered under the Hon. the Minister of Public Works. Mr. Maclean and his officers have shown commendable activity in the numbers of successful convictions they have secured against offenders. Omitting animals and fishes, the following statement shows the convic-

tions regarding transgressions against birds, under the *Acts*, for the last two years :—

Date.	Court.	Offence.	Fine.
9/1/06	.. Seymour (2)	.. Killing Wild Duck	.. ea. £2
12/1/06	.. Rushworth	.. "	.. 15s.
17/1/06	.. Dunkeld ..	.. "	.. £1 5s.
31/1/06	.. Werribee (2)	.. "	.. £2 5s., £2
31/1/06	.. Chiltern (3)	.. "	.. £9 10s. (total)
18/1/06	.. Wangaratta	.. "	.. £1
27/1/06	.. Benalla (2)	.. Killing Quail ..	.. £2 15s., £2 10s.
3/1/06	.. Chiltern (4)	.. Killing Wild Duck	.. £7 10s. (total)
23/1/06	.. Seymour (3)	.. "	.. ea. £2 1s.
26/1/06	.. Cobram ..	.. "	.. £1 5s.
14/2/06	.. Rushworth	.. "	.. £3 5s.
5/2/06	.. Cranbourne (3)	.. Killing Black Swan	.. £3 15s. (total)
7/2/06	.. Numurkah	.. Killing Wild Duck	.. 10s.
5/3/06	.. Bendigo ..	.. Killing Wild Pigeons	.. 15s.
10/4/06	.. Jamieson ..	.. Killing Wild Duck	.. £1 15s.
11/4/06	.. Pyramid Hill	.. "	.. £1 5s.
22/9/06	.. Benalla ..	.. "	.. £3
28/10/06	.. Horsham ..	.. Killing Plover	.. £1 5s.
15/11/06	.. Benalla (2)	.. Killing Wild Duck	.. ea. £2 5s.
24/11/06	.. Elmore ..	.. "	.. 15s.
28/12/06	.. Williamstown (2) ..	.. "	.. £3 10s., £3
16/1/07	.. Chiltern (2)	.. "	.. 10s.
7/1/07	.. Yarrawonga	.. "	.. £1 10s.
9/1/07	.. Tallangatta (4)	.. "	.. £9 15s. (total)
18/1/07	.. Ararat ..	.. "	.. £2
25/1/07	.. Nagambie ..	.. "	.. 10s.
31/1/07	.. Wangaratta	.. "	.. £3
"	.. Geelong (2)	.. "	.. ea. £3
7/2/07	.. "	.. "	.. £3 5s.
6/2/07	.. Sorrento (3)	.. "	.. £3 1s. (total)
13/2/07	.. Pyramid Hill (3)	.. "	.. ea. £2
9/1/07	.. Cunninghame (2)	.. "	.. ea. £2 2s. 6d.
29/1/07	.. Port Fairy	.. "	.. £2
6/2/07	.. Pyramid Hill	.. Killing Black Swan	.. £2 5s.
"	.. "	.. Killing Wild Duck	.. £2 18s.
11/1/07	.. Warracknabeal (2)	.. "	.. £2, £1 10s.
1/2/07	.. Bairnsdale	.. "	.. £1
6/2/07	.. Cobden ..	.. "	.. £2
7/2/07	.. Benalla ..	.. "	.. 6s.
13/2/07	.. Skipton ..	.. "	.. £2 13s. 4d.
"	.. Rushworth	.. "	.. 15s.
"	.. Skipton (2)	.. "	.. ea. £2 13s. 4d.
20/2/07	.. Rupanyup	.. "	.. £1 10s.
26/2/07	.. Geelong ..	.. Killing Quail	.. £1
22/2/07	.. Majorca ..	.. Killing Wild Duck	.. £1 5s.
7/2/07	.. Birchip ..	.. "	.. £1 5s.
4/2/07	.. Buninyong	.. "	.. £1 10s.
15/2/07	.. Stawell ..	.. Killing Wild Pigeons	.. 10s.
14/3/07	.. St. Arnaud (2)	.. Killing Quail	.. ea. £3
19/2/07	.. Tarnagulla	.. Killing Wild Duck	.. 15s.
28/2/07	.. Sebastopol	.. Killing Quail	.. 7s. 6d.

Date.	Court.	Offence.	Fine.
1/3/07 ..	Horsham (2)	.. Killing Wild Duck ..	10s., £1
4/4/07 ..	Hopetoun ..	.. ..	.. 10s.
20/5/07 ..	Serpentine Creek ..	.. ..	.. £2 5s.
9/4/07 ..	Mortlake (2)	.. Killing Quail ..	.. ea. £2 2s. 6d.
21/2/07 ..	Rokewood	.. Killing Wild Duck ..	.. £1 10s.
24/8/07 ..	Portland (3)	.. Destroying Swan eggs ..	.. ea. 6s.
13/11/07 ..	Birregurra	.. Killing Wild Duck ..	.. £1
7/11/07 ..	Geelong ..	.. Killing Jackass ..	.. 10s.
1/11/07 ..	Nagambie ..	.. Killing Wild Duck ..	.. 10s.
27/6/07 ..	Edenhope ..	.. ..	.. 15s.

[Grand total, £156, which does not include "costs" obtained or £3 fine at Geelong (22/1/07) for having an illegal gun.]

### Stray Feathers.

EMUS IN THE GRAMPIANS.—Constable Curtain (Stawell West), in a recent report for the Chief Commissioner of Police, states:—"There are a good many Emus in the valleys of the Grampians. They are very tame—a good sign that they are not chased or shot at. I will keep a good look-out and see that they are not interfered with."

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SPINE-TAILED SWIFTS.—In the July issue of *The Emu*, page 39, there appears a statement that some Spine-tailed Swifts (*Chaturus caudacuta*) were observed making southward. I have been observing the aerial movements of the birds of these parts for over 12 years, and have seen Spine-tailed Swifts appear and disappear scores of times, but never once have I seen them disappear to the southward. They have always come from south to south-east and have gone north to north-west.—F. M. LITTLER. Launceston (Tasmania).

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CORMORANTS *v.* YABBIES, &c.—I had occasion to visit a district of north-west Victoria which is intersected by irrigation channels, in which I noticed many Cormorants feeding. I remarked to a resident of the district who was accompanying me—"I suppose there are fish in these channels?" "Oh, no," he said, "there are not any fish in them!" "Well," I said, "what are the Cormorants feeding upon?" "Oh, yabbies (*Crustacea*) and shrimps," was the laconic reply. "Do the yabbies bore through the walls of the channel and allow the water to run to waste?" "Yes." "Then the Cormorants, by destroying the yabbies, save much water for the irrigationist?" "Yes, millions of gallons!"—J. A. ROSS. Melbourne.

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WHITE-BROWED BABBLERS AS PILLAGERS.—While in the Coolgardie district, about the end of July last, I observed a pair of the above birds (*Pomatorhinus superciliosus*) pulling at what appeared to be the remains of some old nest in a low bush, while four *Acanthizas* were fluttering round them in a very excited state.