

MISTLETOE-BIRD (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*).—No mistletoes here, but they are found at Jindivick, where it is said this exquisite creature is to be seen.

ROLLER OR DOLLAR-BIRD (*Eurystomus australis*).—Mr. D. C. Swan speaks of having seen it.

STRAW-NECKED IBIS (*Geronticus spinicollis*).—Mrs. Gabbett, of Drouin, recently saw a flock of these circling about, and noticed that they pitched on dead trees. My nephew asserts he has seen Ibis in this region.

A LYRE-BIRD (*Menura victoriae*), according to Mr. D. C. Swan, occurs some 8 or 10 miles westerly from where I live. Mr. Swan states there is only one, but if inquiries were made others may not be far away. At Krafft's (of Bunyip) is a case of birds said to be purely local, among them a fine Parrot, the size of a Crimson Parrakeet, and if I am not in error it has a strip of dark colour across the breast. My nephew speaks of having on very rare occasions seen a strange Parrot here, therefore the one at Bunyip may be the same.\*

It would be a good thing if a picture of a bird drawn on the flat came out in the *School Paper*, giving names for its outward parts.

[Mr. Batey is probably the oldest bird-observer in the State, his observations dating back to 1839. The foregoing observations, however, have been made during the last three years.—Eds.]

### Stray Feathers.

CUCKOO NOTES.—Last October (1909) my father found a nest of the *Calamanthus albiloris*, containing a young Cuckoo, *Cacomantis rufulus*,† and a nest of *Acrocephalus australis* wherein a young Cuckoo, *Chalcococcyx plagosus*, was being successfully reared. Both these are probably new foster-parent records.—L. G. CHANDLER. Malvern, 12/2/10.

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FEATHERS AND FROST.—During the late winter I found, upon two occasions, Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*), firmly frozen to an iron roof. The birds roosted under and touching the roof, and during the night their feathers became attached to it by the process of freezing, and in the morning the Swallows were prisoners until the ice melted.—H. L. WHITE. Belltrees, *via* Scone, N.S.W., 5/9/09.

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FULL CLUTCHES OF WATTLE-BIRDS.—On 8th October of this year, while searching for Lyre-Birds, in the company of Mr. Harry Burrell, of Manilla, New South Wales, I discovered a Wattle-Bird's (*Acanthochaera carunculata*) nest about 12 feet from the ground containing the exceptional clutch of three fine fresh eggs. Mr. Burrell went to considerable trouble and secured a

\* Probably *P. ignitus*—a hybrid.—Eds.

† Mathews' "Handlist."

good photograph of the clutch in the nest. I see by my notes that in November, 1906, a friend and myself discovered a Wattle-Bird's nest containing three young birds just ready to leave the nest.—L. C. COOK. Poowong, Gippsland, 24/12/09.

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A NOVEL EXPERIMENT.—A neighbour of mine made an interesting experiment in bird-rearing recently. Finding in the bush one day two Stone-Plover's (*Burhinus grallarius*) eggs, she took them home and placed them with some eggs under a domestic hen. One of the Stone-Plover's eggs, unfortunately, got broken, but the other hatched out. Being unable to follow its foster-mother about, the Plover chick was kept inside during the day, and returned to the hen again at night. For a few days the little "Curlew" flourished, but then one morning a White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina leuconota*) was seen flying away with it. The Magpie was shot later on.—A. G. CHISHOLM. Maryborough, 3/2/10.

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REMARKS ON *EOPSALTRIA JACKSONI*, LE SOUËF.—Mr. A. J. Campbell has sent me a specimen of Mr. Le Souëf's new *Eopsaltria* from the Herberton Range (*Emu*, 1909, pp. 70, 71, pl. iii.) I have taken the specimens in my collection and Mr. Campbell's bird to compare with the series in the British Museum (which has the type of *E. chrysorrhoa* and also a skin of *E. magnirostris*). My opinion is that *Eopsaltria jacksoni* is not distinguishable from *P. magnirostris*, which, in turn, is not to be separated from *E. chrysorrhoa*. I think there is no question about *E. jacksoni* being merged as a synonym of *E. chrysorrhoa*, as in the series examined there are no characters for specific separation to be discovered.—GREGORY M. MATHEWS. Watford, Herts., England.

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THE MAGPIE DEFAMED.—I regret that in this district the Magpie (*Gymnorhina leuconota*) does not bear nearly as good a name as it did formerly. At a recent "evening with the birds," before a mixed audience of farmers and orchardists, the farmers found fault with it for pulling up sprouting wheat, and one orchardist proclaimed the bird as an occasional fruit-eater. But the greatest objection to "Maggie" is its pugnacity during the nesting season, many birds having been shot for attacking and terrifying children. The reply to this objection is that the Magpie has learnt by bitter experience of the danger from marauding boys, and the birds can hardly be expected to discriminate.\*—A. H. CHISHOLM. Maryborough, 3/2/10.

\* It is more probable that the birds have become accustomed to human beings—wild Magpies are always shy.—Eds.

TOOTH-BILLED BOWER-BIRD.—I have rarely been out of the scrub since February last, and have had ample opportunities of watching our friends the Tooth-billed Bower-Birds (*Scenopæetes dentirostris*), and am certain that for three or four months the birds leave the district; moreover, they do not immediately construct bowers, or rather play-grounds, when they return, as I heard and saw them often before I saw the first bower. From February last until the middle of August I did not see a trace of a playing-place; now I see them wherever I go. The conclusion is, therefore, that the bird makes its play-ground preparatory to nesting.\* They are exceedingly numerous in the scrubs this season, also the Rifle-Bird (*Ptilorhis victoriae*) is often in evidence.—BERTRAM GREEN. Atherton, Queensland, 16th November, 1909.

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FLAME-BREASTED ROBIN (*PETROICA PHENICEA*).—In an editorial footnote to a note by Mr. H. Stuart Dove in the previous issue of *The Emu* (p. 172) on this species breeding in immature plumage, it is stated that this fact had not been previously reported. On referring to Mr. A. J. North's "Nests and Eggs," &c. (vol. i, p. 166), I find he records two instances as having been observed by correspondents. It was in the spring of 1896 that the breeding of birds in immature plumage came prominently under my notice, owing to a pair building on the rail of a fence in my father's garden. Since that date I have come across a number of similar instances. Mr. H. C. Thompson informs me that one year every nest of this species he observed round Launceston was in possession of immature-plumaged birds.—FRANK M. LITTLER. Launceston, 28/1/10.

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THE WHITE-THROATED FLY-EATER.—Mr. A. G. Campbell's note in the last issue of *The Emu* on the White-throated Fly-eater (*Gerygone albigularis*) was of special interest to me, because I can supply another record of this bird's presence in Victoria. On the 30th August, 1909, a male bird visited Maryborough. Early in the morning it fluttered through an open window on the second floor of a tailoring establishment in the heart of the town. It remained for some time, dexterously catching house-flies near the ceiling of the room. The visitor eventually flew out of the window again, and disappeared. It may be remembered that shortly before the date mentioned there were heavy storms all over the country, and it was doubtless this stress of weather that drove the bird into a town. A few days before the Fly-eater came, a Crested Shrike-Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*)—a rare bird in town—was seen fluttering in a local shop window.—A. H. CHISHOLM. Maryborough, 3/2/10.

\* As proved by Mr. Sid. W. Jackson—see *Emu*, June, 1909 (Special Part).—EDS.

THE COACHWHIP-BIRD (*PSOPHODES CREPITANS*).—As there has been much controversy regarding the call of the Coachwhip-Bird, a note on the subject may be of interest. For many years I have been familiar with the haunts of this species, and felt convinced that the curious notes that follow so quickly on the whip-crack call of the male were produced by the female only. However, at Olinda (Vic.), on the 1st February, 1908, I was forced to change my opinion. In company with Mr. T. H. Tregellas, I heard the male Coachwhip-Bird's call and the answering call of the female. We were fortunate enough to see the birds on the opposite sides of a road. The male bird was anxious to cross, but seeing us, was afraid. On the edge of the undergrowth, as it restlessly hopped about, we had it under close observation as several times it emitted the two calls in conjunction. Finally, growing bolder, the sprightly form, with crest erect, flitted across the road and joined its mate. With Mr. F. E. Wilson, at Beaconsfield, at a later date, I was able to confirm this note. There also the evidence was sure, for the bird was crossing some open burnt scrub.—L. G. CHANDLER. Malvern.

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DOUBLE-BANDED DOTTREL.—In a swampy paddock at East Devonport, on 16th July, I noticed 20 or 30 birds which appeared to be the above species (*Ochthodromus bicinctus*), although their wariness prevented a certain identification. A couple of months later, however, a pair of these handsome Dottrels was observed feeding on the beach at Devonport in company with some of the smaller or Red-capped species, which is always to be found here. This was on 15th September, and this morning, at the end of October, I had the pleasure of seeing two pairs of the Double-banded on the beach in company with about a dozen of their smaller brethren. Southern New Zealand is usually regarded as the breeding-ground of *bicinctus*, but it seems pretty certain that these pairs, if they intend raising a family this season, will breed on Tasmanian shores. On the same beach to-day was a party of eight Sharp-tailed Stints (*Heteropygia aurita*), probably just arrived from their breeding-grounds in Northern Asia. The Banded Dottrels looked very handsome in summer plumage, the broad band across white breast being very conspicuous; the narrower band across fore-neck was also distinctly visible.—H. STUART DOVE. West Devonport (Tas.), 30/10/09.

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THE BROWN TIT (*ACANTHIZA PUSILLA*) AS A MIMIC.—This useful insectivorous bird is a perfect mimic. On the 11th October, 1908, I found a nest of this species with young. The nest was placed in a *Leptospermum* bush, about 3 feet from the

ground. The squeaking of the young quickly brought the parents on the scene. I was surprised when I heard one of the old birds imitate perfectly the short, chipping notes of the White-shafted Fantail (*Rhipidura albiscapa*). The young ceased squeaking, so I imitated a young bird in distress. The poor parent birds became violently agitated, flying within a foot or two of my head, at the same time mimicking to perfection and in repetition the notes of the following species\* :—*Rhipidura albiscapa*, *Ptilotis leucotis*, *Malurus cyanocephalus*, *Artamus tenebrosus*, *Platycercus eximius*, *Pachycephala pectoralis*, and *Climacteris scandens*. I had my note-book in hand, and took down the calls as I recognized them. It was singular that the birds did not use their ordinary notes between the other calls. No doubt the calls were given to decoy me from the nest. Altogether this little experience was very pleasant, and I spent about half an hour in the vicinity of the nest correctly noting the different calls.—L. G. CHANDLER. Malvern.

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MOULTING OF BLUE WRENS (*MALURUS GOULDI*).—It was with some surprise that I read Mr. Dove's statement (*Emu*, vol. ix., p. 154) that he doubts the change of plumage of the adult male of this species into the drab dress during autumn and winter. My acquaintance with the Blue Wren has extended over both a number of years and a wide area, and I have always been careful to note anything unusual either in habits or plumage, not only of this species but of others. The sight of an adult bird in breeding plumage in winter has always been looked upon by me as something out of the common. I have no recollection any winter of having ever seen more than, say, two birds in breeding plumage anywhere round Launceston. Last Easter I was staying on a farm some 15 miles or so out of Launceston, where birds are encouraged round the house. Among other species *M. gouldi* was present in astonishing numbers, but not a sign of anything but drab-plumaged birds was seen. A pair of birds that breed in a neighbour's garden have been under observation for several seasons, and the fact always noted that on the approach of winter the male doffed his bright coat. The one never-failing distinguishing mark of the sexes when both are in non-breeding plumage is that the tail of the male is distinctly blue, while that of the female is similar to the upper surface of the body.—FRANK. M. LITTLER. Launceston, 28/1/10.

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NEW NESTING LOCALITY FOR FLAME-BREASTED ROBIN.—In a list published in the *Victorian Naturalist*, vol. viii., p. 193, of birds observed during November, 1891, in the Grampians,

\* Scientific names from Matthews' "Handlist."

there appears the name *Petrarca phoenicea*. But it is remarkable that no further mention was made in the body of this report, since this is one of the earliest records we have of the species being found in summer on the mainland of Australia. This season I am able to verify this record. In a monograph on the Flame-breasted Robin (see *The Emu*, vol. viii., p. 122) I stated that after three seasons' personal acquaintance with the Grampians, I considered the early record "not proven," but now, the fourth season, I have had the pleasure of examining two nests in the month of October, and of noting several pairs of birds about the mountains. It was on 9th October, 1909, in the Stony Creek valley, and at an elevation of 1,640 feet above sea level, that the first pair were seen, the male attracting attention by his persistent song. After some search a nest was discovered in the hollow elbow of a gum-tree, newly built and ready for eggs. On the 12th October, further up the valley, on the old gold diggings (elevation 1,750 feet), a male bird was observed feeding, and, again, on the 18th October, on another portion of the range, a nest containing three eggs was found in a bole of a dead tree. In this case a remarkable circumstance pertaining to the pair was that the male bird was apparently in immature plumage. On the same day a Robin was observed among the rocks of an adjacent peak, altitude 3,000 feet. Although the species was not plentiful, yet the records in these four different localities above 1,000 feet elevation come with added interest when I remember that three of these localities at any rate have been visited during past summers with the express purpose of verifying the presence of Flame-breasted Robins, but without success. I have stayed several times at a hut under the slopes of Mt. Redman, but not until this season have I seen Robins about; the nest referred to containing eggs being within a stone's throw of the door. The inference, then, is that the Flame-breasted Robins do not stay every year to breed upon these mountains. But, of course, this will be an interesting matter for future observation.—A. G. CAMPBELL. Pomonal (Vic.), December, 1909.

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OCCURRENCE OF THE KING PENGUIN IN TASMANIA.—In the October number of *The Emu*\* Mr. Conigrave records the Crested Penguin (*Catarrhactes*) as having recently strayed as far north as Rottnest Island, Western Australia. In December last a King Penguin (*Aptenodytes patagonica*) was killed by fishermen on the ocean beach of Maria Island, on the east coast of Tasmania. This may only be recorded as a stray or occasional (rare) visitor. As it should have been breeding in the islands of Antarctic waters (Dec.–Jan.), the Penguin most

\* Vol. ix., part 2, p. 92 (1909).

probably went north or north-west instead of east or south, apparently from an error in its race instinct. It has been recorded from Stewart Island, N.Z., which is in closer connection with the group of islands to the south where the species is known to breed. One point of interest is whether this specimen wandered north-west from the waters of Macquarie Island, or directly from the south.

Many years ago, when visiting Kerguelen Island (Feb., 1898), I met a bird that differed so greatly from *Aptenodytes patagonica* that I made a note of it in my diary, without placing any name on my list in *The Ibis*,\* as hitherto unrecorded in Kerguelen. *The Ibis* words read:—“(c) was a moulting bird with nearly double the girth of others of the same height, and was apparently one-third heavier. Instead of golden-yellow on its neck, it had white feebly tinged with yellow, and there was no gold line on the chest.” At that time it appeared to me to be one-third heavier, but on further consideration it must have been of greater weight. The King Penguin with which I compared it proved to be about 34 lbs. in weight.

A few weeks ago, when comparing Antarctic Penguins, I realized that the bird I saw in Kerguelen was the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*). As *A. forsteri* had not been previously recorded, and did not appear to be breeding when I was visiting the island, I am inclined to record the single specimen as only a visitor, in so low a latitude, in January. It should have been in Antarctica, where it alone is known to live. Dr. Wilson, of the *Discovery* (National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-4), says:—“The Emperor Penguin is a true ice-bird, never being found north of the great ice barrier. It breeds in the Antarctic in August, the period of greatest cold and complete darkness, when the thermometer is often 100 degrees below zero. It is a true south polar bird.”

These solitary examples apparently have over-travelled in their migrations, but under what conditions—storm, errant, or company of another species—it would be scarcely safe to say.—ROBERT HALL. The Museum, Hobart.

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CLEVELAND (TAS.) NOTES.—21/9/09.—Watched male Yellow-throated Honey-eater (*Ptilotis flavigularis*) feeding his sitting mate. As he neared the nest he gave a peculiar call, she hopped from the nest on to a twig near, received the food (an insect) and returned to the nest. The nest was built among bracken ferns and fallen twigs, and contained two eggs. One of these appeared heavily incubated, and the other light and fresh, but it afterwards proved to be addled.

19/10/09.—Found fresh egg of Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*)

\* *Ibis*, Jan., 1900, p. 34.

in a nest of the above species. The Honey-eater's nest had two young ones in. These were apparently recently hatched, and had a few tufts of down on head, wings, and body.

21/9/09. — White-bearded Honey-eater (*Meliornis novæ-hollandiæ*).—Flushed male bird off nest containing two eggs. This nest was remarkable as being made almost entirely of wool, the latter being carried from remains of a dead sheep a few yards away.

15/11/09.—Pallid Cuckoo's (*Cuculus pallidus*) egg in nest of Goldfinch (European).

6/11/09. — Watched Wood-Swallow (*Artamus sordidus*) breaking twigs for a nest. He sat on a branchlet of a dead stringy-bark, and, hopping up to the desired piece, caught it in his beak, and, with a downward jerk, snapped off the tiny bit. He did this several times, until he had a mouthful, when he flew off to the nesting site.

14/11/09.—Watched a pair of Graucalus (*G. parvirostris*) nest-building. The nest at which they were working was high in the flat fork of a white gum. Occasionally one bird would arrive with a mouthful just as its mate was leaving. The latter would return to the nest and re-arrange what it had just placed there, the other meanwhile resting patiently on the limb near by until its contrary mate decided to leave. I saw the birds seeking up and down the cracks, forks, and twigs of the trees for cobwebs, so conclude the nest was nearly finished.

A pair of Yellow-rumped Tits (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) built their nest in the rose-bush growing over the verandah. Three eggs were laid, and the hen had been sitting two days when she was killed by a cat while off her nest. All that morning the male bird whistled round about, but, obtaining no response by afternoon, he flew over the fence to some wattles. Here he could still be heard singing, and by the afternoon of next day was back with a fresh mate. They inspected the old nest, then hunted along the creepers and chose a fresh spot. Next day a foundation of cobwebs was laid, and in five days the new nest was finished. Both these nests were commenced with cobwebs on the vines, from which nests were hung, then the cup part was made, the dome and top nest being worked last.

This season I have noticed several instances of the Yellow Wattle-Bird (*Acanthochæra inauris*) sitting on one egg only; likewise one instance of the Brush Wattle-Bird (*Acanthochæra mellivora*) doing the same.

From a Spotted Ground-Bird's (*Cinclosoma punctatum*) nest under observation I found that in this case the bird laid every other day.—J. A. FLETCHER. Cleveland (Tas.)

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HOW THE PENGUIN FISHES.—One fine afternoon, recently, a friend and myself were walking near the bank of the Mersey



River, north-west Tasmania, when we noticed a swirling movement in the water, as if a struggle were taking place beneath the surface. In a few minutes the head of a Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*, Fors.) appeared, a kind of hoarse "quawk" was uttered, and the head disappeared. Presently the same swirling movement of the water took place in the clear water close to the bank, and we were enabled to see the Penguin paddling round and round beneath the surface after a shoal of small mullet. He followed every curve and twist of the fishes, doubtless swallowing every now and then one of the rear-guard. Mr. A. J. Campbell, in "Nests and Eggs," describes a similar scene in the waters of Port Phillip Bay.

Our Penguin was well away from the open sea, two miles from the river mouth, and is the first I have seen venture so far inland; he appeared to be solitary. The water is, of course, saltish all the way up the estuary. There were several logs and branches of fallen trees projecting into the water from the bank, but the bird slipped over the logs and glided between the branches with wonderful skill while continuing the chase. We could see plainly that only the wings were used for propulsion, the beats being by no means excessively rapid, but made with a certain deliberation, as though the bird were certain of his prey and had no need of undue haste. The legs were placed close together in a line with the body, answering the purpose of a helm. Every minute or two the bird would come to the surface to breathe, sometimes just poking his bill up, then diving under again; sometimes coming up bodily and uttering the hoarse "quawk" which we had heard at first, then swimming about on the surface for a short space before diving, as if to take his bearings. The light blue of the back showed up beautifully in the sunlight while the bird was swimming in the clear shallow water close to the bank, and we could discern also the edge of the white under surface and the white inner margin of the paddles.

During last winter (1909) we had a large number of calm, sunny days, and frequently rowed a boat a mile or so out to sea to fish from. While on these expeditions we were struck by the immense numbers of Little Penguins haunting the coast; doubtless they were attracted by the vast shoals of whitebait which were a feature of that winter. During those sunny days the sea was very clear and blue, and while gazing into its depths we could discern thousands of these delicate little fish. Bearing in mind the abundance of this food supply, it is not wonderful that Penguins also appeared in unusual numbers. My note-book shows that 4th July, 1909, was fine, with light south wind; Little Penguins in great numbers on the surface of the sea off Mersey Bluff, calling all round us with a hoarse "quawking" or barking noise. 7th July.—Penguins making a great outcry in the waters along this part of the coast. 17th July.—Penguins calling

vociferously, some close in shore. So continued all through the month, while the calm, warm days lasted and the small fish remained. Never before have I known Penguins to appear in such numbers on the coast.—H. STUART DOVE, F.Z.S. Tas., 11/2/10.

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BIRDS OBSERVED AT INTERLAKEN, TASMANIA, 13TH AND 14TH NOVEMBER.—Some miles out from Tunbridge\* the Interlaken road, which is really the regular stock route to the Great Lake pasture grounds, rises sharply up the face of the Western Tiers. The grade is very steep, and for three miles the bicycles must be pushed upwards. Therefore constant halts are necessary, and during these I was able to observe the birds listed:—Brown Hawk (*Hieracidea orientalis*), Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*), Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus cinereus*), Whistling Shrike-Thrush (*Collyriocinclla rectirostris*), Small-billed Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus parvirostris*), Dusky Fantail (*Rhipidura diemenensis*), Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petræca leggii*), Flame-breasted Robin (*P. phœnicea*), Pink-breasted Robin (*P. rhodinogastra*), Dusky Robin (*P. vittata*), Long-tailed Blue Wren (*Malurus gouldi*), Strong-billed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus validirostris*), Black-headed Honey-eater (*M. melanocephalus*), Yellow-throated Honey-eater (*Ptilotis flavigularis*), Miner (*Myzantha garrula*), Yellow Wattle-Bird (*Acanthochæra inauris*), Brush Wattle-Bird (*A. mellivora*), Allied Pardalote (*Pardalotus affinis*), Tree-Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*), Rosella Parrakeet (*Platycercus eximius*), Green Parrakeet (*P. flaviventris*).

When the summit of the Tiers is reached the road to Interlaken for four or five miles is fairly level. Lakes Sorell and Crescent lie close together at an altitude of about 3,000 feet, and are separated by a strip of land a quarter of a mile wide. In winter snow-storms are severe, and were especially so this past season—the multitude of broken branches which strewed the ground gave ample proof of the heaviness of the falls. Snow had fallen two days before, on the 10th, so this may account for the complete absence of the Magpie, none being seen until the lower levels were regained on the homeward journey. Owing to a short stay, I was unable to explore a great deal of the shores of the lakes, but the following birds were seen:—Black Swans (*Chenopsis atrata*), Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), White-fronted Heron (*Notophox novæ-hollandiæ*), Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*),<sup>N</sup> Native-Hen (*Tribonyx mortieri*), Bronze-wing (*Phaps elegans*),<sup>X</sup> Green Parrakeet (*Platycercus flaviventris*),<sup>X</sup> Rosella (*P. eximius*), Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*), Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcococcyx plagosus*),<sup>~</sup> Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*),<sup>~</sup> Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*), Fire-tailed Finch (*Zonæginthus bellus*), Wood-Swallow (*Artamus sordidus*),<sup>X</sup> Tree-Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*),<sup>X</sup> Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*),<sup>X</sup> Yellow-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus affinis*),<sup>N</sup> Diamond-Bird (*P. punctatus*), Yellow

\* Tunbridge is 74 miles south from Launceston; altitude, 750 feet.

× Wattle-Bird (*Acanthochæra inauris*), × Brush Wattle-Bird (*A. melivora*), × Yellow-throated Honey-eater (*Ptilotis flavigularis*), × Brown-rumped Tit (*Acanthiza diemenensis*), × Long-tailed Blue Wren (*Malurus gouldi*), × Dusky Robin (*Petræca vittata*), × Flame-breasted Robin (*P. phænicea*), × Dusky Fantail (*Rhipidura diemenensis*), × Small-billed Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus parvirostris*), Crow or Raven, × Brown Hawk (*Hieracidea orientalis*), Pipit (*Anthus australis*), Sooty Crow-Shrike (*Strepera fuliginosa*), Hill Crow-Shrike (*S. arguta*). No young were seen with the water-birds.

Nests examined were Brown-rumped Tit's (with two eggs), Flame-breasted Robin's (with three young); Diamond-Bird's (in tunnel in root of upturned tree), with five eggs, heavily incubated—that is, judging by appearances; new Native-Hen's nest, built in tea-tree boughs.—(MISS) J. A. FLETCHER.

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BIRD NOTES FROM THE UPPER GOULBURN.—The scrub that fringes the banks of the Goulburn River above Wood's Point forms an ideal home for birds, and here may be found such forms as the Lyre-Bird (*Menura victoriae*), Rufous-breasted Thickhead (*Pachycephala rufiventris*), Leaden Flycatcher (*Myiagra rubecula*), Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*), Flame-breasted Robin (*Petræca phænicea*), and others. Among the tall eucalypts large numbers of the Lunulated Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus atricapillus*) are at present breeding. The nest, which is suspended from a slender bough, usually out of reach, is formed of grass and bark shreds, ornamented with spider cocoons and small pieces of lichen. On 23rd November I discovered a pair of young ones perched together on a slender twig of wattle (*Acacia*). They were evidently about 14 days' old, and not yet able to fly. Beyond the green back and white under parts they bore slight resemblance to the parent birds, there being no black cap, but a dark patch on side of head around the eye. An indistinct grey stripe indicated where the crescent "moon-mark" would be at maturity. The parent birds took turns in feeding the young; the speed with which they gathered a beakful of insects off the wattle trees and returned was astonishing. On the same day I found the nest of a pair of White-eared Honey-eaters (*Ptilotis leucotis*), with a single young one perched above it, apparently about 12 days out of the egg. The nestling's general colour was greyish-green; fourth primary in wings white; greyish-white blotch on side of head; tail very short. Flocks of Grey Strepera (*Strepera versicolor*) and Pied Strepera (*Strepera graculina*) may always be found in this district, and their nests are generally placed in the most inaccessible trees, though occasionally one may be found in a lower position. The Streperas are ground feeders, their principal food consisting of the large black and red bullants, though in the fruit season they attack orchards, pecking

plums, pears, apples, &c. When on a raid, a sentinel is placed in a high tree, while the others feed below, and at the slightest sign of danger he swoops from his perch with a loud call, and the whole flock rises into the air and flies away. Yellow-faced Honey-eaters (*Ptilotis chrysops*) are very numerous, and during the course of an afternoon's ramble as many as ten or twelve nests may be observed. Nests are placed in small trees and bushes, and rarely exceed the height of 6 feet, and I have seen them as low as 2 feet from the ground. When only two eggs are laid, and one is taken, the birds destroy the remaining egg and desert the nest, but if the full number is three and one is purloined no notice is taken of the robbery. Wattle-Birds (*Anellobia carunculata*) are plentiful, the bush resounding with their queer calls—"Chock-o-lock!" "Kurra-choc!" "Ker-choc-chock!" "Peet!"

Neither Mr. A. G. Campbell \* nor Mr. R. Hall † states very definitely in what positions the Flame-breasted Robin (*Petræca phænicea*) places its nest, and as the birds build regularly in this district (2,000 odd feet above sea level) the following notes may be of interest:—In this locality the nest is invariably situated in a small cavity in a rock bank, generally under the shelter of an overhanging tussock of grass. The materials used in its construction are wool, horsehair, and cowhair, firmly welted together; sometimes a few lichens ornament the exterior, but such is not always the case. November and December are the breeding months, though one or two nests may be found in January still containing young. Two, three, or four eggs constitute a clutch. I have never seen a nest in any other situation than that described—perhaps because the crevices of the rocks are to be found everywhere in the slate formations, and no trouble is needed on the part of the birds to find a suitable site. On 12th November I discovered a Rufous-breasted Thickhead (*Pachycephala rufiventris*) greedily devouring a large emperor gum moth, and this is, I think, a new departure on the part of the birds, from which great benefit will be derived. The only other birds (exclusive of Owls and other nocturnal birds) that feed on this pest are the Gang-Gang Cockatoos (*Callocephalum galeatum*), which tear open the tough cocoon to get at the chrysalis inside.—NOEL E. MADDISON. Wood's Point.

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### From Magazines, &c.

A WONDERFUL MIGRANT.—To *The Lyttelton Times* (N.Z.), of 11th September, 1908, Mr. James Drummond, F.Z.S., contributed an interesting account of the Barred-rumped Godwit

\* *Emu*, vol. viii., part 3.

† "Insectivorous Birds."