

deal of information to the late A. J. Campbell when the latter was writing his well-known book. Mr. Hill was one of the pioneers of the Kewell district of the Wimmera, and made a notable success of farming, retiring about 10 years ago, to reside in Stawell. He never lost his interest in natural history, and even in the last year of his life he used to give addresses in local schools on birds and insects.

W.J.S.

Notes on Dusky Wood-Swallows.—On August 30, 1930, about fifty Dusky Wood-Swallows (*Artamus cyanopterus*) arrived at the Northern Golf Links, near Melbourne. On September 4 I noticed some of the birds circling and flying round as if they were very agitated. All at once they bunched up in a close flock and flew northwards. When I went into the links the following Saturday there were only about half of the original flock left. I had a good look round but could see nothing which might have disturbed them. The only conclusion I could come to was that the birds had only stayed there to rest for a few days before going on to their own location.

Of the birds that stayed I had many opportunities of observing their habits, especially their feeding. As far as feeding is concerned, it is hard to find any swallow-like habit except when they were hawking insects in the air on rare occasions. Although the Swallow gets practically the whole of its food from the air, the Dusky Wood-Swallow appears to feed very little in the air. Although I observed them often during the season, I noticed them hawking in the air on three or four occasions only. Most of their feeding was done from a dead branch at the top of a tree, from which they flew out, caught an insect, and then back to the branch like a Restless Flycatcher or Jacky Winter does. They rival the Swift Parrot and White-plumed Honeyeaters at acrobatics when hunting insects among the hanging branches of the eucalypts. They also hunt insects on the ground, hopping along like Sparrows or running like a Magpie or White-fronted Chat. When standing on the ground they use their tails as props, and puff out their feathers like a Canary going to sleep. They will stand propped on their tails for a little while until they see an insect move, and then they will hop after it. Each hop they take is about a foot. If the insect starts to move quickly, then the bird runs after it.—W. HEATHCOTE, R.A.O.U., Pascoe Vale, Vic.