

they search the ground from a considerable height is as remarkable as it is typical of this species. One Quail which killed itself in a fence while endeavouring to escape proved to be of the Red-chested species. Stubble Quail were also present.

A pair of Grey Falcons showed themselves to be equal opportunists. One day, while shooting Ducks, I noticed a pair of these Falcons, which were making no attempt to molest the Ducks. They knew at once, however, when one of the latter was wounded. They chased one for a hundred yards or so, when it fell dead in the bed of a dry water-course. When I went to pick it up about half an hour later, I found little more than feathers remaining.

The Ducks also form a large group. On one waterhole I saw a flock which I estimated at about 20,000 birds, amongst which I noticed Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, Pink-eared Ducks, Whistling Tree Ducks, Freckled Ducks, Grey Teal. There were probably several others. In very wet seasons the district is sometimes visited by Pigmy Geese from the "Territory". The Channel-Bill Cuckoo is seen occasionally, and an egg was found some years ago in the nest of a Magpie-Lark. This seems to be a hitherto-unrecorded foster-parent. Besides these, many other fine birds are to be met with. Painted Snipe, Brolgas, Bustards, several kinds of Cockatoo (including the Little Corella), Bourke Parrots, Spotted Nightjars, Chestnut-crowned Babbler, Crimson and Orange Chats, Purple-backed Wrens, Crested Bellbirds, White-browed Tree-creepers, Wedgebills, the two species of Crow and the Raven, with others too numerous to mention, go to make up the avine population. I noted in all 108 species. This was in the middle of winter, and only one species (*Chenopsis atrata*) was then nesting.

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**Satin Bower-birds and the Painting of their Bowers.**—In the *Bulletin of the New York Zoological Society* (Vol. XXXV, No. 2, 1932) is an article on the habits of Satin Bower-birds by Charles Barrett. In the same journal additional notes are published by Lee S. Crandall, Curator of birds in the New York Zoological Park, on the habits of the species in captivity. The following remarks, extracted therefrom, and dealing with the painting of the bower, are of particular interest to Australian workers for they coincide with field observations recently published in *The Emu*, (Vol. XXX, 1931, pp. 282-3):—

"In February, 1922, a keeper called my attention to the antics of a satin bower-bird which followed him about the aviary, nibbling at the soft wood of a sieve the man was using. I watched the bird for some time and finally discovered that the particles of wood were

"chewed" until they had become thoroughly mixed with saliva, and that the resultant paste was then smeared on the twigs that lined the inner walls of the bower. A piece of dry, rotten wood was then placed in the cage and an orgy of plastering followed. When the deposit had become dry, we found that most of the inner twigs were well covered with a thick, greyish coat, of crumbly consistency. Each stick was treated separately, none adhering to its neighbour. I believe that no theory in explanation of this habit has been advanced and I am unable to suggest one."

When discussing this habit in *Birds and Green Places*, A. H. Chisholm states: ". . . Its only function appeared to be decorative."—K. A. HINDWOOD, R.A.O.U., Willoughby, New South Wales.

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**Photographing the Pipit.**—Besides being a common bird almost everywhere throughout Australia where open grass country exists, the Australian Pipit or Ground-Lark (*Anthus australis*) is an interesting ground-dwelling species, and I considered myself rather fortunate when I secured a good photograph of an adult Pipit near its nest. It was early in October, 1931, that a nest well situated for photographic purposes was located near my home. When first found it contained an egg and two newly-hatched young, but when it was shown to me a few hours later, a third nestling had taken the place of the egg. The following Sunday I attempted to picture the adults "at home", but they would not approach very close to the nest. I then brought a "dummy" of very crude pattern, into operation. I first placed it a few yards from the nest, but each evening I moved it a few feet closer, until finally the Pipits took no offence at it when it was placed not more than a couple of feet from their home. It was bright and early on the morning of October 14 that the only successful photographic study I obtained at this nest was secured. The adults, both of which were equally industrious in feeding the young, would, when approaching the nest, always alight on a nearby fence, then fly to the ground below. From there they would gradually make their way to the nest, and, when close to it, approach hurriedly, feed the young, run away a few feet, and then rise and fly a considerable distance before alighting.

Unfortunately, misfortune was destined to fall on the faithful parents. When the young were well-grown it was noticed one evening that two were missing and it was conjectured that the remaining one would go next day. This suspicion proved to be correct, as, on the following evening, the nest was empty. I suspect a Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) of being responsible for the deed.—AUBREY J. ELLIOTT, R.A.O.U., Cambewarra, N.S.W.