

of uniformity in commencement of nesting will interfere with the development of what might be termed 'classical territorial behaviour.'

The more normal the season (the more clear cut the division between winter, spring, autumn and summer), the closer should behaviour approximate to that observed in similar species in Europe.

In conclusion I would like to quote a section of a paper by Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr on the Family Anatidae (*Wilson Bulletin*, vol. 57, no. 1, Mch. 1945, pp.3-55) which is of interest. They say "stiff tailed ducks are almost voiceless in ordinary times; but the drakes, during their courtship, emit a variety of squeaking and clucking noises. Their display is striking: they lift their tails and puff out their chests; then stretching their necks forward and backward, they slap their bills on their inflated chests. They also press their bills on their lifted and puffed chests, with the tail down in the water, and finally with both feet they kick water which spurts backward. The females stretch out their necks with their bills open.

"The weird Australian Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*) is certainly a member of this group in spite of its thick bill and carnivorous habits. Its display is like that of typical members of the group."

It is apparent that the display observed does not confirm this last statement. The wattle under the beak would introduce a new element, and, therefore, the head display could not be expected to follow the same pattern as in other members of the group Oxyurae. However, the display in general does not fit the pattern as indicated by Delacour and Mayr.

No display was observed in the female, but these observations are only a very small fragment of Musk Duck behaviour.

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**Gilgandra District.**—It might be of interest to record that some rare species are noted now and then in this district. The Superb Parrot occurs in scattered parties, the largest flock I have seen being 25. The Freckled Duck is sometimes seen, six being the most I have noted together. The Bustard is seen only very occasionally. The Magpie-Goose is no doubt driven here by seasonal conditions.—A. O. MCCUTCHEON, Gilgandra, N.S.W., 12/7/45.

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Owing to difficulties in the binding trade it will not be possible at the present time for the Union to arrange to have any volumes of *The Emu* bound. If the position improves later in the year an announcement will be made in *The Emu*.