

in the scrub, feeding upon worms, slugs, beetles, frogs, &c. On account of their restricted habitat it is predicted that the species will early become exterminated. Indeed, in Layard's time, 30 years ago, it had already disappeared from the neighbourhood of the more settled parts. Can some measures not be devised to save this singular bird from becoming, like the Dodo, extinct?

Stray Feathers.

MELBOURNE ZOO NOTES.—Saw flock of about three hundred Straw-necked Ibis flying high in irregular lines over Melbourne from west to east on 13th December.

Have hatched and reared at Zoo this season White-bellied Plumed Pigeon (*Lophophaps leucogaster*), Partridge-Bronzewing (*Geophaps scripta*), and many Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*).—D. LE SOUËF.

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BIRD-NAMES OF ABORIGINES.—A pleasing feature of the National Park, Sydney, is the fact that most of the creeks are named after the aboriginal names of birds, such as "Mullion" Brook, meaning Eagle; "Wurrul" Brook, meaning Bee-eater; "Burowa," the Bustard; "Karoga," White Crane; "Gorra Worra," Laughing Jackass; "Buralga," Native Companion; "Kobardo," Parrot; "Birumba," Plover; "Dirijiri," Wagtail; "Murrindum," Quail; "Dumbal," Crow; "Tamur," Bronze-winged Pigeon; "Burunda," Swan; "Karani," Duck; and "Palona," Hawk.—A. H. M.

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LITTLE NIGHTJAR (*Ægotheles novæ-hollandiæ*).—These little birds appear to vary much in plumage. I have taken a detailed description of one shot near this station. Although the Nightjar sleeps all day, it constantly wakes and calls from out the hollow limb it which it roosts, "Chirk, chirk, chirk," and goes to sleep again. I have heard them at this often and often, but never knew what to put it down to until to-day, when, locating the sound in a dead tree, I frightened out the bird. I hear a cry at night that I put down to this bird, but it is then short and abrupt—"Che'ok" or "Che'oak"—and uttered disconnectedly. The day call is just as I have written it.—FREDK. L. BERNEY. Wyangarie (N.Q.), 15/1/05.

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HYPOTÆNIDIA PHILIPPINENSIS.—The Pectoral Rail has bred in our garden, but I have not had the luck to see the little ones. Some young pigs also spoiled one or two clutches, or we might have had quite a number about. These birds have been very fearless with us, and it was quite the usual thing a month ago to hear a bird "grunting" at you from underneath a shrub not more than 8 or 10 feet from where you stood, and often even much

less than that, and with quiet movements you could often get sight of them. Then if anyone did any digging, or cut some grass, a few minutes after leaving you could see two or three birds prospecting for the insects disturbed, and this would occur sometimes with the person still within a few feet of the place.—ALFRED COMPTON. Stonyfell (S.A.), 24/11/04.

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YELLOW-EARED HONEY-EATER.—A small party of three spent a Sunday about the middle of November, 1904, at Ferntree Gully. While partaking of our luncheon in a quiet spot in the heart of the Gully, we were much interested by the fearless actions of a bird, which we identified as the Yellow-eared Honey-eater (*Phylotis lewini*). One of our party was eating a sardine sandwich, when the bird alighted on a small stick lying on the ground, and partook of the sandwich readily out of his hand, and then flew off with its mouth full, probably to feed a young family. This performance was repeated several times, the bird returning to where our things were spread each time. It not only relished sardine sandwich, but showed a decided liking for jam-roll and scone, and finished up with banana. The most amusing part was that the bird was not at all alarmed by our presence, as we were freely discussing its markings and to what species it belonged all the time it was filling its mouth.—FRED. P. GODFREY. 23rd February, 1905.

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ALBINISM—RHIPIDURA TRICOLOR.—My attention was recently drawn, by Mr. Frank Leake, of this city, law student, to the existence of a pure white individual of the Black-and-White Fantail which frequented the livery stables attached to the United Service Hotel, and situate in the very heart of the city. A close inspection proved the bird to be wholly white in plumage, and to have *black eyes* and very pale brown legs, feet, and bill. The man in charge of the stables said the bird was about a month old, and that the two normal-coloured birds which accompanied it were the parent birds. The members of the family were wholly indifferent to our near approach and presence, and went on capturing insects on or about the legs and hoofs of the stalled horses. Of what great value these birds are to live stock! How could the larvæ of the bot-fly, or the fly itself, flourish where these invaluable searchers exist!—ALEX. WM. MILLIGAN. Perth, Western Australia, 22/2/05.

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WESTERN NOTES.—When at Mundaring recently, about 30 miles from Perth, I saw some children who had just been attacked by Eagles when out in the bush by themselves. They said that the Eagles were very fierce, and it was only by throwing stones and sticks at them that they kept them back, but as it was they were swooping within a few feet of them. There were seven Eagles altogether. Three or four would attack in front, the others from the rear while the children were beating off the front ones.

A surveyor friend of mine told me that while out surveying near Perth he found a nest of a Fawn-breasted Kingfisher with big young ones in that had been attacked by termites, or white ants. The young birds were just alive, and were coated with mud by the termites, and the entrance to the nest blocked up, and their mouths also closed with mud by the insects.

There is a pretty little Black-and-White Fantail (*Rhipidura tricolor*) which had a nest in an old garden by the river and in her nest were two young ones, but one was the ordinary colour and the other pure white.—LANCE LE SOUËF. South Perth (W.A.)

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YELLOW-THROATED HONEY-EATERS.—The cool, showery season which has been experienced this summer in our Island-State appears to favour not only a rank growth of vegetation, but also a somewhat abnormal production of bird-life. When Mr. H. C. Thompson and myself went on a little exploring trip the other day to the banks of a river, we were struck with the great numbers of Yellow-throated Honey-eaters (*Ptilotis flavicularis*) which haunted the tea-tree scrub near the stream. It was an ideal spot for birds, masses of tea-tree, prickly wattle, and above these white gums, affording splendid cover for various species. There was a fair number of "New Hollands," and a Spinebill or two, but the Yellow-throats were in such preponderance as quite to overshadow all others. Every bush, almost, into which we looked contained some of these fine birds, and the air was melodious with their notes. Their tameness was remarkable; in one instance our eyes were close to an individual comfortably ensconced in a bush, the bird sitting quietly there as if not at all objecting to a close examination. May this Eden long remain unmolested!—H. STUART DOVE. W. Devonport (Tas.), 11/2/05.

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BIRD-VISITORS TO THE BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE.—In cleaning away water weeds it has been found necessary to partly drain the lake in the Gardens, and it is surprising how quickly native birds have discovered the food exposed upon the mudbanks and along the margin, and come in some numbers to feed, with but little concern, within a few yards of onlookers. No less than 15 species were noted just a week after the draining commenced. The Bald-Coot (*Porphyrio melanonotus*), the Coot (*Fulica australis*), of which there were a great number of young ones, the Rail (*Hypotaenidia philippinensis*), the Little Crake (*Porzana palustris*), the Magpie-Lark (*Grallina picata*), the Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*), and the Little Grass-Bird (*Megalurus gramineus*) are probably always present in the reeds and rushes; but such as the White-necked Heron (*Ardea pacifica*), the White-fronted Heron (*Ardea novæ-hollandiæ*), the Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*), the Black Duck (*Anas superciliosus*), the White-eyed Duck (*Nyroca australis*), the Teal (*Nettion castaneum*), the Bush-Chat

(*Ephthianura albigrons*), and the Black-fronted Dottrel (*Ægialitis nigrifrons*) are undoubtedly the visitors.—A. G. CAMPBELL. Melbourne.

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CENTRAL QUEENSLAND NOTES.—Since the breaking up of the drought there has been a wonderful change noticeable in the activities of birds of all kinds. It has been most observable among those which claim the attention of sportsmen. Ducks, which were dried out, have been returning to their former breeding haunts, and have been making up for former idleness by rearing several broods in the season. Quails have been even more procreative and industrious. Grass is luxuriant, and seeds and water are abundant. The Mopoke is now to be heard at night, and the Laughing Jackass at the "scaigh o' day." Finches were so numerous and so easily caught that boys could not resist the temptation to trap them, and a member of the Wild Birds Protection Association had to call the attention of the police to the violation of the law which was going on. Swifts, which visit us in showery weather at midsummer, were seen high up over Rockhampton this week. Among our migratory visitors before the drought smote the district was the Pied Crow-Shrike (*Strepera graculina*). It came and remained with us during the winter months. In the winters of 1903 and 1904 it was conspicuous by its absence. Localities where it was a cheerful and welcome visitant knew it not. A visit from it in the coming winter is anticipated.—M.A.O.U. Rockhampton, 25th January, 1905.

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MUSK LORIKEET.—On 9th October, 1904, in the Bacchus Marsh district, I chopped out a nest of the Musk Lorikeet (*Glossopsittacus concinnus*), which, much to my disappointment, contained a young bird. Having enlarged the nesting-hole to such an extent with a tomahawk, I decided to take the bird, which had only a few feathers. For the first few days after being brought to Melbourne it was fed on honey diluted in water, injected down its throat with a small glass syringe. The little thing soon learnt to feed itself from a small saucer, and was no trouble to rear. Nothing delights it more than to be handled and played with; its antics on the swing are most amusing. It is now in full plumage, the rusty marking just appearing on the nape and back. Occasionally it says a few words, learnt from a Rosella Parrakeet whose cage hangs near. The breeding season in Victoria appears to be far advanced in October, as two or three nests found by our party on the same occasion contained fairly well grown young, always two in number. These birds were very numerous in the district, and were in company with *G. pusillus*. Lately they are very numerous round Melbourne, having been seen in the parks, gardens, &c., feeding from the flowering gums. The favourite nest-site seems to be about 18 inches from the opening down the main trunk of a green tree in open forest. The birds quickly betray their

nest by harsh screeching, and only have to be watched for a few minutes in order to detect the nest.—FRED. P. GODFREY. 23rd February, 1905.

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WHY DOES THE YOUNG CUCKOO EJECT ITS FOSTER-BRETHREN ?—In observing a young Cuckoo ejecting the young of its foster-parents—a small Wren—from the nest, the question arose in my mind which factor is it that operates and causes the young Cuckoo to commit wholesale murder at this early stage of its existence, when but a few hours old. Instinct or reason seemed to be impossible with a bird as yet unfledged and capable only of certain muscular actions. Was it possible that such a young mite should instinctively know at this stage of its life-history that the nest was too small to hold all the nestlings later on when they grew older and larger ? I could not conceive of such a theory being possible. The Cuckoo did not seemingly endeavour to kill its nest companions, but sought only to rid itself from the irritation inflicted by contact with them. The probable solution of the problem is that the factor operating is mainly—possibly wholly—attributable to an involuntary muscular action caused by the sensitive action of the nerves of the skin, which nature has endowed the young Cuckoo with for such purposes. Wriggling in the nest, more particularly with its head, neck, and wings—the freest and most active portions of the nestling—the skin of these parts is brought into contact with the heated surface of its puny neighbour's body ; then local irritation causes muscular movement of the head and neck to take place to free this portion of the body from the irritating proximity of the object which causes the irritation. The endeavour to free the head and neck portion, and the concavity of the nest, brings the obnoxious occupant on to the Cuckoo's back, which part likewise receives the irritating stimulus, causing the final ejection of the young Wren by a backward movement. In the human body involuntary actions of the muscles are commonly prevalent, owing to some form of local irritation. The cause of these muscular actions cannot be either reason or instinct.—A. H. E. MATTINGLEY.

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A PENGUIN AT PLAY.—On a recent afternoon, when the sea was smooth and the warmth of the sun tempered by a delightful breeze, Mr. H. C. Thompson (a member of the A.O.U. who is at present on a visit to Devonport) and myself took a walk along the training-wall which bounds the east side of the Mersey River at the mouth, and is said to be $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length. We sat on huge blocks of basalt at the extremity of the wall, gazing on the waters of Bass Strait, when our attention was attracted by what at first we took to be a peculiar fish, swimming rapidly beneath the surface of the clear water. In a few seconds we could see that it was a Little Penguin, cleaving its way through the water in that rapid fashion for which its wedge-shape so well befits it. Presently the bird poked its head and part of the neck above the surface, took an instantaneous survey, went again below, and swam on into a sheltered basin

under the lee of the wall, making towards the beach. We could trace it for a long way by its habit of frequently poking its head above the surface, apparently to ascertain whether it was holding a correct course. Presently it came again into the waters near the extremity of the wall, and we were then witnesses to an extremely pretty spectacle. The bird lay upon the surface of the summer sea, only a short distance away, preening its feathers and rolling about, apparently enjoying life to the utmost. Sometimes it would float upon its back, when the pure white plumage of the breast and throat shone out in the sunlight in a very pleasing manner. Then it would twist its head round about until the throat looked like a broad white stripe down the back of the neck; after which it would set to work again preening its breast. For quite a long while did we watch this thing of beauty floating away to the eastward on the bosom of the tide, until lost to sight; surely in itself a sufficient answer to that much-vexed question "Is life worth living?"—H. STUART DOVE. W. Devonport (Tas.), 11/2/05.

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NOTE ON *ÆGOTHELES NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ*, Lath.—An interesting fact in the economy of this pretty Nightjar was brought to my notice one evening in the autumn of last year. When stepping on the decking of a viaduct 80 yards long, which crosses a marsh on this estate, I became aware of some object which precipitated itself from the low kerb at the side of the roadway on to the planks in front of me. As it was quite dusk, for the moment the object seemed at first glance to be a young rabbit; but in another second, from the fluttering which characterized its movements, it could be plainly seen that it was a bird. On my springing forward to catch it, it fluttered along in front of me so quickly that capture was impossible, and so the chase continued, first to one side of the roadway then the other, until the end of the viaduct was reached, where the decking was about 2 inches above the gravel approach, that having been worn down by traffic. Here there was just light enough to see the bird launch itself into the air and glide away with the characteristic flight of the *Caprimulgidæ*.

This incident shows that this species cannot, like some other short-legged, long-winged birds, rise from a perfectly flat surface. Frequent observations of members of this crepuscular family in England and the East have shown me that as a rule Nightjars, when alighting on the ground, choose a stone, clod, little bank, stick, or other diminutive eminence from which they can launch themselves. I have, however, seen the sturdy *C. atripennis* in Ceylon often alight on a bare sandy track or hard road and rise from such a position with ease. In the present instance fright, no doubt, caused the little *Ægotheles* to launch itself from the kerb log (6 inches high) beneath the hand-rails on to the roadway, for the opposite hand-rails furnished it with a ready perch if so desired. The wing in this species is particularly long in proportion to the weak and diminutive leg, which accounts for its inability to rise from a perfectly flat surface.—W. V. LEGGE. Cullenswood (Tas.)

CLERMONT (Q.) NOTES.—Quails have been very plentiful throughout the year, and bred continuously till June. We then had no rain until the end of November, when I noticed the birds in pairs and heard a difference in the call when coming to water in the evening. Now the first of the young birds are appearing. The Brown birds (*Synæcus australis*) were, I think, the most numerous, and kept near the watercourses. The grey Stubble birds (*Coturnix pectoralis*) were also plentiful, and kept to the high open downs; while the large three-toed Painted Quail (*Turnix varia*) frequented the scrubs and cane-grass flats. The last-mentioned are splendid fliers, and I think the best shooting, as they swerve round a tree or bush in very disconcerting fashion. The Little Quail (*Turnix velox*) is still to be found, but is not nearly so plentiful as before the large birds came. Surveying over the downs after the dry weather had thinned the grass revealed an astonishing number of old nests and egg-shells, and also the fact that a large percentage of eggs are not hatched.

Swifts appeared in great numbers on four occasions between 25th and 30th November, and on each occasion heralded a storm. I shot one, and found it to be the White-rumped variety (*Micropus*) with a spread of wing of $18\frac{3}{4}$ inches; beak to tip of tail, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Wild Turkeys or Bustards are getting plentiful, and bred in November. Most birds waited for the rain, but Pigeons seem to have laid pretty well the year through. Laughing Jackasses and Butcher-Birds are still very scarce, although the bush is teeming with mice and locusts. Asiatic Dottrels revisited their favourite ridge on Langton, and Little Whimbrel, Greenshanks, and Pratincoles were reported to me. A handsome white Hawk (probably *Elanus axillaris*) with black shoulders is fairly common, and lives on mice, Quails, and locusts. The Cockatoo-Parrots seem to have left again, but "Betcherrygahs" (Warbling Grass-Parrakeets) are very common, and hundreds are now in captivity, the boys round the townships making quite a lot of pocket money out of them.—F. B. CAMPBELL FORD. 7/1/05.

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CLARKE ISLAND (BASS STRAIT) NOTES.—It is surprising how some birds of the same species differ in their respective nesting habits as regards time. On one of the islands here, where I was weather-bound for a week, I had the opportunity of noting this with respect to the Cape Barren Goose (*Cereopsis*). Within a few hundred yards of one another I found two clutches of young, one of them comprising three well-grown birds just able to fly a little. The birds of the other clutch, on the contrary, were only a few days old. Proceeding a little further, I discovered another nest with four fresh eggs, and still further another nest just built. The Black Swan is the same to a less extent, as I have seen cygnets in a half-fledged state, and within a few yards of them a clutch of perfectly fresh eggs.

The Teal, Black Duck, Musk-Duck, &c., are hardly to be seen

here at all this year, owing, I think, to the lack of winter rains. One clutch of Duck's eggs was found in a creek close to the home-
stead, and in due time four young ones were brought out. Needless to say there were not molested.

The Brown Hawk is very rare this season. The Brown Quail is just commencing to lay, and one will often start a pair getting their simple though cosy nest ready.

I saw a most interesting case of devotion on the part of a Black Crow-Shrike (*Strepera fuliginosa*). A pair built a nest in some trees close to the house, and when the young were hatched I used to watch, with great interest, the parents feeding them. They both objected to my surveillance very much, and used to fly to and fro past me, almost striking me with their wings, and uttering loud cries. One day, slightly annoyed at their clamour, I seized a small stick and struck at one as it passed. Unfortunately, I struck it on the pinion and it fell, unable to fly, to the ground, and ran quickly away. I was very sorry for this, both on account of the poor bird, and also for the young, fearing that the other parent, when it discovered the loss of its mate, would probably desert them. But not so. Next day I saw the one bird feeding its family, and it continued to do so until they were fledged. After the birds had flown, happening to go into the heart of the scrub, I saw two Black Crow-Shrikes perched on a bough. I startled them, and they both flew a short distance. One of them was the bird that I had hurt, as I noticed that the pinion was injured, but it had so far recovered that it was fairly strong on the wing. I presume that the bird had both procured food for its young and also for its suffering partner.

The Brush Bronze-wing (*Phaps elegans*) is very plentiful, and if caught will get very tame.

The Pacific Gull and Sooty and Pied Oyster-catchers are nesting in fair numbers round the coast.—J. D. MACLAINE. 5/11/04.

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BIRDS OBSERVED AND BIRD-SKINS EXAMINED IN 1903 AND 1904 NEAR HOBART.—Long-tailed Blue Wren (*Malurus gouldi*).—9th March, 1903.—Two male Blue Wrens in a transitional stage of plumage are seen. They take flight and maintain a fight on the wing. A few light-blue feathers are visible below the eyes and a few black feathers on the upper part of the breast. Black feathers are continuous on the hind-neck and form a half-ring.

Lesser White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hyperleuca*).—2nd January, 1903.—I have had an opportunity of examining the skin of a young male *Gymnorhina hyperleuca* about three months old. The general colour of the back is ashy-grey, like that of the adult female, but a few of the feathers on the back have brownish tips; the wing coverts are black and white; the two outer tail feathers are also parti-coloured, the outer webs being black and the inner webs white, except the distal third of each feather, which has both webs black. The lower wing coverts next the body are silky white; those farthest from the body are black, as also are the

axillaries. Some of the latter have obscure sub-terminal bars. Bill lead-coloured; iris hazel; feet black. Wing, 9.4 inches; bill, 1.48 inches.

6th January.—Have examined another skin of a young male of the same species—a skin of a younger bird than that of the previous one. The lower wing coverts have not appeared; it may have been hatched six or seven weeks ago. It differs from the skin already described inasmuch as the feathers on the back are ashy-grey, with buffy-brown tips and subterminal brownish bars, and that the wing coverts are, with few exceptions, white, not parti-coloured. The tail feathers are white with a black sagittate mark near the tip of all except the two outer feathers. The arrow-head points towards the body. The two outer tail feathers are black, except a portion of the inner web, which is white. Bill slate-coloured, darker at the tip than at the base; the mandible very slightly notched; length, 1.46 inches. Iris and feet as in previous example. Wing, 7.6 inches.

Spine-billed Honey-eater (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*).—29th January.—A family of these Honey-eaters frequents the garden and visits a large fuchsia assiduously. One of them killed proves to be a young bird in immature plumage. It differs from the adult in being without the crescentic mark on the chest; the throat and chin are uniformly sandy-grey; the rest of the under surface is orange-brown; head and back olive-brown; upper surface of wings glossy greyish-black (plumbaginous), under surface of wings grey; tail feathers, ten in number, black, except three, which are white for about the half or one-third of their length reckoned from the tip. Iris brown tinged with red; tarsus lead-coloured; upper mandible brown, lower mandible yellow. Wing, 2.25 inches; bill, 0.64 inch. The long diameter of two eggs of this bird measures 0.78 inch and the short diameter 0.55 inch.

Crescent Honey-eater (*Meliornis australasiana*).—An immature male shot on the 26th December, 1903, has the under surface dusky, and is without the crescentic mark of the adult male. The quill feathers and tail feathers have the outer webs bordered with olive-yellow. Length, 5.4 inches; wing, 2.6 inches; culmen, 0.5 inch.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—A young Swallow was being fed by its parent on the 11th of February, 1904; it received food whilst on the ground, and was also fed whilst flying. On the 5th of September one Swallow was seen.

Fire-tailed Finch (*Zonæginthus bellus* (?)).—A most singular Weaver Finch was shot by Mr. A. R. Reid on the 1st of January, 1904. It resembles *Z. bellus*, but the tips of the upper tail coverts are rusty-orange, and one of the tail feathers is bordered with rusty-orange. The bill is orange-red, the feet light brown. The vermicular markings are distributed over the whole of the back and of the under surface, and are narrower than the vermicular markings on normal examples of *Z. bellus*. Culmen, 0.44 inch; length, 4.4 inches; tarsus, 0.62 inch.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*).—9th March, 1903.—A young

Pallid Cuckoo obtained, in which the plumage is much diversified. White predominates in its plumage, in many places tinged with buff and brown, resembling the colour of sealskin. Brown and white intermingle on the head; the feathers of the mantle are brown with buff tips; the body feathers on the back are white with brown centres; the upper tail coverts are brown with whitish edges, lanceolate in shape and ornamental in character, the ends of the barbs being unconnected; the tail feathers are sooty-brown and deeply toothed with whitish. The throat is like the head; towards the lower part of the under surface the brown gradually disappears, and on the abdomen all the feathers are white; primaries dark brown, toothed with white on the outer webs, and having buff spots on the margins of the inner webs; secondaries similar to primaries but without buff spots; wing coverts brown, or brown with buffy tips; lower surface of wings and tail grey, toothed with white, except the lower wing coverts, which are grey with wavy brown markings; axillaries white, tinged with buff; iris brown; feet horn-coloured; bill yellowish-brown. Wing, 6.9 inches; bill, 1 inch; tarsus, 0.8 inch.

Tern (*Sterna bergii* (?)).—A young Tern was brought to my residence on the 21st of March, 1904. As the bill was yellow and the iris black and the tarsi and webs of the feet wholly black, I assumed it to be an example of *Sterna bergii*, Licht. (*Thalasseus poliocercus*, Gld.) It was in the pied plumage of the young of that species. Back and wings mottled with sooty-brown and white; all the under surface white; head black, and the feathers of the head slightly elongated; nape white. It lived on the premises until the 5th of August, but never attained the use of its wings in flight.

Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*).—This is the least shy of the Cormorants which frequent the Derwent, and permits one to approach within about fifty yards. A specimen received on the 18th July, 1904, had the culmen brownish-black and the remainder of the bill yellow; feet black.

Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*).—3rd November, 1903.—Three Little Penguin's eggs from Bruni Island measure in inches as follows:—(1) 2.25 and 1.69; (2) 2.26 and 1.64; (3) 2.25 and 1.65. Another egg of this Penguin measures 2.36 inches long and 1.70 inches broad. A partially incubated egg of medium size weighs about 2 ozs.—JAMES R. M'CLYMONT, M.A. Sandy Bay.

From Magazines, &c.

YELLOW-RUMPED FINCH.—“A specimen of the extremely rare *Munia flaviprymna*, Gould, from North-Western Australia, probably the first living specimen ever brought to Europe, was exhibited at the Crystal Palace Show, 25th, 26th, and 27th October. The judge, taking it for a hybrid, awarded it only a second prize, the first going to a specimen of the familiar *Zonogastris melba*.”—*Avicultural Magazine* (Nov., 1904), p. 53.