

WHITE-HEADED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*).—A single specimen only was noted.

SNIFE (*Gallinago australis*).—Rarely seen here.

STRAW-NECKED IBIS (*Geronticus spinicollis*). — A summer visitor which is generally seen on the wing.

YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL (*Platibis flavipes*).—A rare visitor.

WHITE EGRET (*Herodias timoriensis*).—One bird was noted.

WHITE-FRONTED HERON (*Notophox novæ-hollandiæ*).

WHITE-NECKED HERON (*Notophox pacifica*).—An occasional visitor.

LITTLE CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*).—A few birds may be seen along the Wimmera River and small creeks, but do not nest here.

BLACK-THROATED GREBE (*Podicipes novæ-hollandiæ*).—A nest containing four eggs was found on a small dam which I think belonged to this species.

BLACK SWAN (*Chenopsis atrata*).

WOOD-DUCK (*Chenonetta jubata*).—Usually found on the low country in the neighbourhood of dams and creeks, during the summer and early autumn, but most of them leave the district for nesting.

MOUNTAIN-DUCK (*Casarca tadornoides*).—A few pairs arrive in the early spring, and although they built regularly here I have been unable to collect any notes as to their habits.

BLACK DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*).—Like the following species, this bird is an occasional visitor.

TEAL (*Nettion castaneum*).

EMU (*Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ*).—Old residents inform me that in the early days these birds were very plentiful, but during my eight years' residence here only one specimen was seen. They are still found in the Grampian Mountains, which is the nearest point to this locality at which they may be now seen.

## Bird Notes from Wilmot, Tasmania.

BY (MISS) J. A. FLETCHER, CLEVELAND, TASMANIA.

PART IV. (*concluded*).

(Continued from Vol. IV., p. 14.)

DURING the autumn and winter of 1905 the Hill Crow-Shrikes (*Strepera arguta*) came to this district, and remained until nearly springtime. They were certainly a great addition to our surroundings, and their merry "clinking" calls added a jovial tone to this our dreariest season. In the autumn of 1906 these birds returned for a brief period. As far as I could learn they retired to the less heavily timbered plains, 12 miles south, to breed.

The Ground-Lark (*Anthus australis*) is another of our summer visitants, but prefers other localities during the very wet and

frosty winters of Wilmot. I had much pleasure in watching their tripping movements amongst the grass in the early morning.

Consequent on the yearly increase of the scrubbed area, the Mountain or Ground-Thrushes (*Geocichla macrorhyncha*) are becoming very rare, and during this year I have not seen one, though I have had several scrambles in their favourite gullies. In previous years I have generally seen several, and found their old nests. As the forest is being cleared they do not return to their old nesting sites to build.

In one of my former papers I remarked that I wondered for what food the Spotted Ground-Bird (*Cinclosoma punctatum*) was hunting on the heathy ground. I have since discovered that it is a certain chrysalis which buries itself just under the surface of the ground. After a Ground-Bird has searched a piece of ground, the latter has the appearance of being covered with the broken shells of tiny brown eggs, the white inside lining adding to the deception.

Along the moss-grown banks of a now unused track cut in the face of a hill I found several old nests of the Brown Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis humilis*), also a nest that had been built and used this season. Very cunningly hidden are these nests. Often the entrance alone betrays the situation.

Above the same bank I watched a family of Black-headed Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus melanocephalus*) being fed. They were sitting on a branch, and, being rather weak, assumed such grotesque attitudes that they would have made an excellent photograph of baby bird life.

The White-eyes (*Zosterops caeruleus*) were frequent visitors to the fuchsias on the back verandah, despite the fact that the verandah joined the school.

Several members of the Hawk family were residents of the district, much to the disgust of the farmers during the chicken season. The Brown Hawk (*Hieracidea orientalis*) and Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*) were frequently circling overhead. They appeared to nest on the top of a high, scrub-covered hill, the latter species being frequently seen flying in that direction with something in its talons. I also found the situation of a nest of the Black-cheeked Falcon (*Falco melanogenys*) in the spout of a dead gum tree. The bird was sitting, and when returning to her nest always described a circle, flying round evidently for observation. If she observed me lying on the grass below she would utter some warning cries and fly away over the tree-tops. On the river levels and the lower lands I have often watched the Swamp-Hawk (*Circus gouldi*) circling above. Occasionally, a flutter in the Magpie world would betray the presence of a Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaëtus audax*), slowly flying across to the west.

Once in a way a Plover (*Lobivanellus lobatus*), and occasionally a Snipe (*Gallinago australis*), would find its way to the clearer lands, but after remaining a few days would again disappear. Several times a flock of Wild Ducks (*Anas superciliosa*) flew over, evidently making their way to the more open water-ways several miles west.

I have now recorded all the birds which have come under my notice during my residence in this north-western district of Tasmania. Compared with other portions of the island the variety is very limited, and, owing to the dense undergrowth, observation is very difficult. Yet the pleasure of studying the bird life amply compensates for the hours of toil often incurred.

## Notes on a Collection of Birds from the Townsend River, North-Western Australia.

BY ROBERT HALL, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S.

THE collection was made by my correspondent, Mr. J. P. Rogers, along the right and left banks of this tributary of the Robinson River. It was gathered in 1902, and I understand Mr. Rogers to have been the first field naturalist to visit the locality in search of birds.

Some of the species in the following list I believe to be new to North-Western Australia\* :—

CACATUA GALERITA (Latham), White Cockatoo.

Terminal parts of chest and breast stained with pale brick-red. Adult male, 1/9/02.

CACATUA GYMNOPIIS (Sclater), Bare-eyed Cockatoo.

Throat, chest, breast, and wing coverts deeply stained with dull brick-red. Adult male, 8/9/02.

CACATUA ROSEICAPILLA (Vieillot), Rose-breasted Cockatoo.

Under surface very pale rose. Adult male, 29/4/02.

PTISTES ERYTHROPTERUS (Gmelin), Red-winged Lory.

Immature male, 4/5/02. Interscapulum green, small portion only of upper wing coverts crimson.

PLATYCERCUS BROWNI (Temminck), Smutty Parrakeet.

Adult male and female. A well-defined red mark across forehead; cheeks bluish-white. Apparently this is a case of dichromatism.

CORVUS BENNETTI (North), Short-billed Crow.

Wing 11.3 inches.

\* Cf. *Novit. Zool.*, xii., 1905, pp. 192-242.