

I do not know whether the legs and feet undergo similar changes, but, whereas the adult Black Moor-Hen has green legs with bright red coloration on the joints, the immature birds collected by Mr. Carter had feet and legs described in the male as olive-green and in the female as grass-green. What colour are the legs of the chicks? I would suggest that some of *The Emu's* coloured plates be devoted to hitherto unfigured nestlings of some of our common species, which would probably be of more value to members of the R.A.O.U. than pictures of rare birds from North Queensland and Northern Territory, which they are never likely to see.

Notes from Western Australia.

BY W. B. ALEXANDER, M.A., PERTH (W.A.)

1. **Grey-headed Mollymawk** (*Diomedea chrysostoma*).—A specimen of this bird was picked up on the beach at Fremantle in June, 1917, by Mr. F. L. Stronach, and is now in the Western Australian Museum. This is, as far as I can ascertain, the first definite record of the species from Western Australia, though the seas of this State have been included in its range in most lists of Australian birds, presumably on theoretical grounds. The name of Grey-headed Mollymawk, or Albatross, seems to me much more satisfactory than Flat-billed or Culminated as a vernacular for this species, since its grey head differentiates it from all the other Australian species, whilst the bill is closely similar to that of the Yellow-nosed Albatross, and the differences which exist can only be recognized on careful comparison.

2. **White Egret** (*Herodias alba syrmatophora*).—This bird is recorded in all the books as occurring throughout Australia and Tasmania, but it is certainly very uncommon in the south-west, and the only definite record of its occurrence here which I can discover is the entry in Ramsay's "Tabular List," indicating that a specimen from Western Australia was in the Australian Museum in 1888. (Ramsay's list is, however, not always reliable.) There were no specimens from the south-west in the Western Australian Museum collection until recently. In February, 1917, one was received from Bremer Bay, on the south coast, about 100 miles east of Albany, where it was shot by Mr. R. Wellstead. In March, 1919, two male birds out of a small flock were shot on Herdsman's Lake, near Perth, and are also now in the Museum. I am informed that in April, 1919, another party visited Herdsman's Lake, where I hope they were not molested.

Quite a number of water-fowl which are common in south-east Australia are rarely, if ever, met with in the south-west. It is possible that some of these are only now finding their way down occasionally from further north. As an instance, I may mention that the White Ibis has not yet been recorded from this State except in the extreme north (though many books give its

distribution as "Australia"). The Straw-necked Ibis is now commonly met with at least as far south as Perth, but Mr. T. Carter has recorded in *The Emu*, vol. iii., p. 209, that when in May, 1888, this bird first appeared in the region of the North-West Cape, it was quite unknown to the natives of that district.

3. **Black-tailed Native-Hen** (*Tribonyx ventralis*).—These birds have recently appeared in numbers in the south-west coastal districts (April and May, 1919), extending at least as far south as the Vasse River at Busselton, where Mr. T. Carter secured specimens. Mr. T. P. Draper and I saw about 50 of them one afternoon on the shores of Monger's Lake, close to Perth, and I have heard of them from various other localities. I am informed that the pastoral regions further north are very dry at present, and probably this accounts for the visitation.

4. **Hoary-headed Grebe** (*Podiceps poliocephalus*).—These birds are also very abundant at present (May, 1919) in the neighbourhood of Perth—not only on the lakes, but also on the salt-water estuary of the Swan River. I have never observed them on the river before, and a number of yachtsmen inform me that their presence there is quite unusual. Contrary to their usual habit, when approached they take refuge in flight rather than by diving. Doubtless their presence is due to the same causes which have driven the Native-Hens to the coast. The Little Cormorant and the Little Black Cormorant would also seem to have been affected, as they are far more numerous on the river than usual. As a rule the Pied Cormorant is much the most common species, but at present the other two species are much more numerous.

Introduced Birds in Queensland.

BY A. H. CHISHOLM, R.A.O.U., BRISBANE.

I HAVE been interested of late in collecting information relating to the arrival of overseas avifauna in Queensland. Some useful notes have resulted. There are records to show that in May of 1869 the State Acclimatization Society received a shipment of birds by the ship *Flying Cloud*, the species comprising the Rook, Starling, Lark, Blackbird, Thrush, and Sparrow. What became of these immigrants is not so clear, but the indications are that they were all exterminated. Certainly this was the case with the Rook, Lark, Blackbird, and Thrush, and I cannot find anyone who remembers the Starling and Sparrow in Queensland in other than recent years, the belief being that the birds now present worked their way up from the south. Had the Starling and Sparrow contingent of fifty years ago prospered, they would probably have been on the "black list" much sooner—this despite the declaration of the secretary of the society that there was not likely to be objection taken to any of the imports.