

G. M. Mathews, who gives an exhaustive history of the Prions in *Birds of Australia*, Vol. II, sets down an ingenious theory (p. 220) that each species, or sub-species, has been developed in its own particular island. That Prions do occasionally keep together in clans is illustrated by the fact that in June, 1926, twelve specimens\* were obtained on Cottlesloe Beach, W.A., thrown up dead after a storm. The width of bill is from 15 to 18 mm., average 16 mm. After another storm in October following, dead birds were again found at Cottlesloe and some at Bunbury. Twelve specimens (an equal number of each sex) measure 12 to 13 mm. in width of bill and are obviously from a different colony. We consider the first batch is a large-billed race of *banksii*† and the second a small-billed race of the same species. The averages for the two batches are : Width of bill, 14.3 mm. ; length of bill, 28.9 mm. ; wing 188.4 mm. These measurements are not included in the above key, because the specimens came to hand later.

Between the sexes there is not any appreciable difference in measurements.

**Bush-Lark as Mimic.**—On 15 August, 1926, the first Bush-Lark was heard singing in this district. The range of bird calls imitated was limited and not until about six weeks later was a full range heard. In the course of the singing, notes of the following birds were recorded though not in the order named :—Pipit, Welcome Swallow, Singing Honeyeater, Dusky Wood-Swallow, Stubble Quail, Red-capped Dotterel, Willie Wagtail, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Magpie-Lark, Red-backed Parrot, and House Sparrow. Several bird-calls were heard which I could not identify.

It would be very interesting to have notes on this wonderful singer from other localities. I presume it is a mimic, for I have now heard a few notes of the House Sparrow in its song, and last year, I was certain it imitated a few notes of the English Starling.

The full notes of each species mentioned above were not given, but a very easily recognised part of some of them was quite sufficient to give me the pleasure of writing this article.—HARRY H. NEWELL, Hindmarsh Island, South Australia (6/11/26).

[Mimicry of other bird-calls on the part of the Bush-Lark is recorded by Mr. C. F. Belcher in his book, *Birds of the Geelong District, Victoria* (1914). It now seems probable that Australia possesses more "mocking-birds" than any other country.—EDITOR.]

\*In the "H. L. White Coll." National Museum, Melbourne, and referred to by F. L. Whitlock, in this issue, p. 154.

†Referred to by Mathews as *P. vittatus missus*—"Birds of Australia," II, p. 212.