

green bushes, they made a massed attack on the fire as it approached particular nests. It was a heavy job, but the perspiration was shed in a good cause, and when the flames passed at least six bird-homes had been saved. Only in one case was the labour in vain. The fighters had repelled flames from three pretty eggs of the rufous song-lark, tucked away in a grass-tuft, and then turned to save other nests. But later, alas! they found that the fire had doubled back, completely destroying the song-lark's home.

"Surely this is one of the most novel and stimulating fire-fighting episodes yet recorded!—several young men working for hours to save the eggs and young of helpless wild birds. The sorrowful thing is that the defenders, too, were helpless in many cases. Against this, there is the bright reflection that when several robins and other small mothers returned after the fire they found their homes intact, oases in a blackened waste. Is it too much to suppose that those birds sang a song of thankfulness to the strange giants who came to the rescue?"

## Correspondence

Seabrook, via Northam,  
Western Australia.

31st October, 1928.

The Editor, *The Emu*.

Dear Sir,—Re the Diamond Firetails (*Zonæginthus guttatus*) which Mr. T. G. Bryant, Mr. C. S. Sullivan's informant, describes as being "Java Sparrows," "the same bird that he knew on the Murchison River, W.A.," I would suggest that the bird probably referred to is the Chestnut-eared Finch (*Taniopygia castanotis*).

On reference to the R.A.O.U. check-list it will be seen that the Diamond Firetail is not found in Western Australia. The White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*) and the Chestnut-eared Finch I have both heard referred to as "Java Sparrows" in this State, but one most likely to be seen on the Murchison and confused with the Diamond Firetail is, I think, the Chestnut-eared Finch.—Yours, etc.,

C. T. H. JENKINS.

## News and Notes

Dr. B. Anderson, R.A.O.U., has, for health reasons, given up his practice at Westbury, Tasmania, after a residence there of 32 years, and was accorded a public farewell by his numerous friends and well-wishers in the district. Dr. Anderson has a very keen ear for the notes of wild birds, and his large grounds at "The Willows" were a sanctuary during his long residence there for quite a number of species, several of which nested in the vicinity of the house.—H. S. DOVE, Devonport, Tasmania.