

by scratching up the leaves and turning over the small stones precisely after the manner of *Menura superba*." Though I have often watched *Psophodes olivaceus* feeding, I have never seen the feet used for scratching. Always the bird has thrown the rubbish aside with the bill, pieces of bark several feet long, as well as smaller material, being treated in this manner.

While feeding, the bird frequently utters a soft "clucking" sound. This note is also used when leading the young about. The alarm note most frequently used is the "indrawn" whistle without its usual termination. The idea has been mooted that birds of different districts have varying dialects. This has been strongly suggested to me by my observations of *Psophodes olivaceus*.

At the National Park, Wilson's Promontory, I have frequently heard the birds giving, very softly, the sounds "kuk-kuk-kuk," the "kuk" being repeated six or seven times before ending in the "whip-crack" note. On one occasion I heard a rather startling variation. The "kuk-kuk," repeated about seven times, was given with sharp staccato effect, each "kuk" being a loud, ringing note. A sharp "whip-crack" completed the call. Had I not had the good fortune to see the bird, which hopped on to a shrub during the performance, I could not have credited that these strange notes came from my old friend. At Wandin, during frequent week-end and holiday visits extending over six years or more, I have never heard this note. The call of the male in that district is always the indrawn whistle and explosive "crack," and is followed almost immediately by his mate's dutiful answer, "witch-a-wee!"

The Yellow Chat.—Recently, having occasion to handle some of the duplicate mounted birds in the National Museum, I was pleased to recognise amongst them a male of the rare Yellow Chat (*Epthianura crocea*), Castl. & Rams. It is a fortunate find, as the species is not represented in the reference collections, and it is interesting as belonging to one of the oldest collections in the Museum, being one of a number of skins collected in the Rockhampton district of Queensland, which were obtained from J. McGregor in 1859. Consequently, this bird was in the possession of the Museum about sixteen years before the species was described by Castelnau and Ramsay (P.L.S., N.S.W., 1, 380, 1876). The original stand, twig and label are still intact, the latter, of course, bearing only the name of the locality. The species has already been recorded from the Rockhampton district (*Emu* XVII., p. 61, 1917), but the Official Checklist does not show that it ranges further east than the type locality, Norman River, Northern Queensland.—GEORGE MACK, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.