

nesting, and, I have since been informed, has been seen in several parts of the district.

Here, then, is a bird which is apparently extending its range. That it is a great wanderer is proved by the fact that its habitat is given in the "Checklist" as:

"Aru Is., N.G., A. exc. Vic., S.A."

It is a curious fact that the bird has not ranged into Victoria or South Australia. Normally I feel that it is a coastal and range-dwelling bird, and to my mind it is a notable fact that it is invading the country of the Chats and other dry country birds. That it is somewhat diverse in colouring, marking, etc., is easily seen if one studies Mathews's plate. The four figures depicting two males and two females from four widely-separated districts are so unlike that one would doubt that they are similar species. But though the males and females in the plate seem to differ most, he states distinctly in regard to the upper and lower figures, that the opposite sex is similar. It is not surprising under the circumstances that this bird has puzzled cabinet and field naturalists considerably.

It is a pity that the name Least Honeyeater was ever abandoned in regard to the species, for I believe it accurately describes it.

Just one more point occurred to me during my interesting investigation of this bird. The "Checklist" gives the range of *Myzomela obscura*, the Dusky Honeyeater, as extending into south Queensland. I doubted this, as Mathews states it is a north Queensland bird, and there were no specimens in the Brisbane or Melbourne Museums from south of Rockhampton. But there is, in the Australian Museum, Sydney, a specimen marked as coming from the Coomera River, which is near Brisbane. Does one swallow make a summer?\*

\*Members attending the Camp-Out at Fraser Island, Queensland, in October, 1930, were definite as to *Myzomela obscura* being there. See *The Emu*, Vol. XXXI, p. 187.—Ed.

#### Is the Stone Plover (*Burhinus magnirostris*) passing?—

In the course of a motor journey of 3,000 miles from Queensland into and around about New South Wales I heard the wail of the Stone Plover but once. We camped each night of our journey by creekside, ocean beach, plains or highlands—always in the open—and I would have wakened to any Curlew call. Until recent years the birds were plentiful amongst the islands and foreshores of Moreton Bay or along the river flats. To-day I never hear them. Foxes are supposed to be responsible for their disappearance, but Banded Plover and Spur-winged Plover are also ground-nesting birds, and we found those birds very plentiful in the country as we travelled through.—L. M. MAYO, R.A.O.U., Brisbane, Qld.