

attracts numbers of insects, but Thornbills and Fantails are usually found among the blossoms. At the bend on Olinda Creek the silver wattle flooded the valley with waves of glorious colour. This is the one reserve near Melbourne where Bell Miners are to be found, and their establishment there must be of very recent years, because in the writings of some of the earlier naturalists who knew the place well they are not mentioned.

A visit was paid to the sanctuary at Toolern Vale on July 28, when several observations were added to the log. The Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo and Fantailed Cuckoo were both seen and heard, this being the first week of their appearance. The Diamond Firetail's nest referred to in the last report had been much used for sleeping quarters, whilst the White-browed Babbler had laid two eggs, hatched them and reared the young in the depth of winter. The flock of White Cockatoos were still about, feeding in low-lying tussocky paddocks. The bad reputation given them of following the drill and eating the grain was not borne out by the beautifully-green and even appearance of the farmers' crops alongside. Honeyeaters, uncountable, of at least nine species, feed during winter among the flowering yellow gums. A five-mile walk about the adjoining bush-covered ridges convinced us that the sanctuary is the focus of bird life in this district.

Through the courtesy of the Director of the National Museum, the winter study meetings have been continued and are well attended. The demonstrators have been Messrs. A. G. Campbell, E. S. Hanks and J. A. Kershaw.

Review

[*A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China* (Chihli, Shantung, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Kiansi, Chekiang, Fohkien, and Kwangtung Provinces). By J. D. D. La Touche, C.M.Z.S., C.F.A.O.U., M.B.O.U. Vol. II, pt. vi, pp. 497-566, i-xxiii; 1 pl. London: Taylor & Francis, May, 1934. Price, 7s. 6d.]

In addition to the remainder of the *Anatidæ*, the *Podicipidæ* and *Colymbidæ*, this part contains a corrigenda, addenda, and an index, thus completing the work.

The two volumes give a total of 756 forms of birds for the eight provinces of Eastern China. As the author remarks, a number of these will have to be excluded, but with further exploration and research probably a greater number will be added.

Without a knowledge of the facilities available to the author we hesitate to criticise, but a too-ready acceptance of the opinions of others, particularly on the validity of races, detracts considerably from the value of a work such as this. Nevertheless, for the purpose of reference and as a basis for the more intense work yet to be carried out, this handbook will be of the greatest use, and we congratulate Mr. La Touche on its completion.—G.M.

The degree of Doctor of Science of the Melbourne University has been conferred on D. F. Thomson. Dr. Thomson recently accepted an offer by the Federal Government of a position as a patrol officer of the Government in Arnhem Land.