

I believe that the movement for the preservation of birds is at least as strong in Australia as in any other country, but the fact that the national committee sent no report to the annual meeting of the international committee was bound to produce a contrary impression.

May I recommend therefore that if the Commonwealth Government sends a delegate to any future Ornithological Congress he should be provided with a report by the Australian National Committee on Bird Preservation.

The next International Ornithological Congress is to be held in France in 1938.

W. B. ALEXANDER.

University Museum, Oxford, 6/8/34.

Resolutions Adopted by the VIIIth International Ornithological Congress, July 6, 1934.

The VIIIth International Ornithological Congress approves the intention of the British Government to raise the question of oil pollution of the sea at the next meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations; urges that all possible steps be taken, both in relation to that meeting and also by influencing public opinion in all maritime countries of the world, to bring the evil to an end; and, as a practical means of effecting this purpose, stresses the need for legislation requiring the installation of oil separators in all oil-driven and oil-carrying ships under all flags.

This resolution to be forwarded to the British Foreign Secretary, the British Board of Trade, and the appropriate authorities in all the maritime countries of the world.

The VIIIth International Ornithological Congress recommends that the study of the forms of birds should take a part in the teaching programme in schools as leading to the development of the sense of observation, and in consequence to the development of the spirit of protection of birds.

The Striated Thornbill.—The Striated Thornbill (*Acanthiza lineata*) is a common bird in suitable localities throughout its range. It is chiefly to be met with in the eucalypt forest areas, particularly where there is an abundance of underscrub. In such an environment it secures a plentiful supply of insect life.

These birds are highly insectivorous, and of much economic value. Their food has been found, on dissection, to consist of ants, flies and fly larvæ, plant bugs, aphides, psyllids, spiders, lace-wings' eggs, beetles and caterpillars, also a few small seeds, such as wattle and probably others of a small size.

They are interesting little birds to watch, very methodical and untiring in their search for food, which is usually secured from amongst the foliage. They search both the leaves and bark of the forest giants as well as the low saplings and shrubs. They usually associate in small parties up to four or five individuals and during the nesting period I have noticed the whole company attending to a nest of young. Rarely if ever do they feed on the ground.

Their notes consist principally of a series of short calls, these being varied occasionally with a short, sweet song.



Striated Thornbill at nest.

Photo. by A. J. Gwynne.

The short calls somewhat resemble those of the Buff-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza reguloides*).

They are amongst the earliest of the forest birds to commence nidification. Nests under construction or containing eggs may be located in early August. The nest shown in the photograph accompanying this article was found on September 9, 1933. It contained three young. A good deal of time was spent by me at this nest, taking pictures, and I observed that at least three birds attended to the wants of the nestlings. The nest was five feet from the ground in a grey box tree. Two others found in the same district were in similar situations, one being only two feet from the earth.

The nest is a small, well-built, domed structure with a hooded side entrance; it can be easily distinguished from the nests of other Thornbills. The nest of the Striated Thornbill is composed chiefly of dead grasses, a little bark with ornaments of spiders' egg bags, and lichen, the egg chamber being warmly lined with feathers. In the photograph the hooded entrance is pronounced, and a like construction has been a distinguishing feature of the nests that have so far come under notice. The eggs, which are invariably three in number, are typical of the genus *Acanthiza*—pinkish-white with markings of reddish-brown, particularly at the larger end, where a zone is often formed.

Markings of the young are similar to those of the adults, except that the general pattern is much duller and the striated markings on the head are less pronounced.—A. J. GWYNNE, 41 Gipp Street, Carrington, N.S.W.

At the "All Australian Bird Show" held in Melbourne during November, a wide variety of native birds was displayed, including the following:—Green-winged Pigeon; Squatter, Partridge and Plumed Pigeons; Rainbow and Swift Lorikeets; White and Pink Cockatoos; Galah; Gang-gang; Long-billed, and Little Corellas; Palm, Red-tailed and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos; Cockatiel and Blue-bonnet; Port Lincoln, Mallee and Twenty-eight Parrots; Superb, Regent and Princess Parrots; Crimson, Yellow, Eastern, Northern, and Western Rosellas; the rarest of the *Neophema*—Bourke, Turquoise and Scarlet-chested Parrots; Golden-winged (Anthill) Parrot. There were also numerous strains of Budgerigars; almost all the Australian Finches (not excepting Painted and Beautiful Firetail), besides Magpies (two species), Grey Butcher-bird, Satin Bower-bird (mature), Noisy Pitta, Southern Stone-Plover, Quail of four species, Wedgetail Eagle, Boobook Owl and "Morepork," or Frogmouth.