

that feature may be to serve as a warning to others of their kind, as the white tail of the rabbit when displayed, in a rush to safety, is regarded as a danger signal to its tribe. From an observer's point of view, such a feature is often a recognition mark. When a bird is flying directly away from the observer so that he sees only the edges of the wings and the posterior end, identification at the moment is not always simple, and may be possible only when the creature swerves and reveals its head or body markings. But if he catches sight of a mark on the rump he may recognize at once a familiar species. A whitish mark on the tail coverts of the Swamp Hawk (*Circus approximans*) is a good identification feature. Another is the bright green rump of the Rosella, which is often the most prominent feature about the bird as it darts out of a tree and flies away on the opposite side as the observer is approaching. Often in the bushlands, particularly when traversing such areas by train or car, I have noticed this bright mark, when birds were disturbed, moving against the darker verdure of trees in the background before I actually saw the outline of the birds, but knew at once that they were Rosellas.

When flying across the line of vision, of course, there is no mistaking one of these handsome Parrots, with its red head and multi-coloured plumage, the males in the breeding season being particularly well dressed. The females, generally speaking, are slightly less brilliant.

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**Cockatiels in South-western Australia, etc.**—I noted Mr. Sedgwick's remarks re Cockatiels (*Leptolophus hollandicus*) in *The Emu*, vol. xxxv, pt. 3, also Major H. M. Whittell's note in last issue. On November 11, 1934, Cockatiels were reported to me by a fellow-member in the Toodjay district, and on December 10, 1934, I saw seven birds of the species at Seabrook, near Northam, for the first time. Further odd birds were seen during January, 1935, and then they seem to have disappeared as I have seen or heard nothing of them since. Possibly the dry conditions that have been and still are existing in the interior of the State caused the birds to come further south than is usual for them.

I observed the Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*) for the first time in this district in July, 1934, one bird only being noted throughout the year. The following March I noted two birds, which proved to be a pair. They remained in the locality and nested in a eucalypt amongst scrub situated about a mile from the homestead. Three young were reared and they remained in the district until December, when they and the parent birds disappeared.—L. H. C. JENKINS, Northam, W.A., 26/5/36.