

no explanation to offer for the enlargement. It was not, presumably, a mere swelling of the lobes, for a glance at the picture shows the nail at the end of the toe, indicating that the bone is lengthened. The fact that every negative shows the same abnormal bird suggests that in this case one bird only carried out the brooding. One egg remained in the nest at this stage: the four had been reduced first to two and then to the single egg. The other eggs had definitely not hatched out and their fate is unknown—possibly a Pacific Gull was to blame.

Admittedly Grebes are not often seen to fly, but any suggestion that they fly only when hard pressed is incorrect. Several times I noticed a Grebe—and I have seen the same with the Black-throated species—rise from the water and fly, with its peculiar scuttling flight, across a large expanse of water, actuated, evidently, by no other motive than quickly to attain some other point.

Mr. Jones informs me that he found another Grebe's nest at the Bend on April 3, 1938, with two stained eggs.

Jones's list of birds observed at the Bend is increased by three species—the Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novæ-hollandiæ*), a small flock appearing to be resident (the omission of this species from the list was an oversight); and the Tippet Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) and the Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), the latter two species noted by me some time ago within half a mile of the pond where the Hoary-headed Grebes were watched.

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**Mimicry in Wild Cockatoos.**—I have often wondered if Cockatoos, which are clever mimics in captivity, ever indulge in vocal mimicry in the wild state. I have not heard them. It is possible, of course, that, like the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and certain other known mimics, they confine their mimicry to an undertone and therefore are not heard. In May this year I received a letter from Miss Ruth Schleicher, of Hazelbrook, on the Blue Mountains, in which she says:

"I was very surprised yesterday to hear a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo mimicking a Kookaburra. My sister heard it, too; and my brother, who was farther away and did not see the bird, supposed it must have been some child trying to imitate a Kookaburra. As the Cockatoo settled on the tree, it gave a deep-toned chuckle, and repeated the chuckle several times in the high key of the bird's normal call. It could not manage the full range of the Kookaburra's laugh, but the chuckle was an unmistakable imitation and quite well sustained. I hope that I shall hear another performance, as the Black Cockatoo is about quite often at this time of the year."

If there is no doubt about the interpretation of the bird's call, we can add the Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*) to the ever-growing list of bird mimics.—M. S. R. SHARLAND, Sydney, N.S.W., 15/5/38.