

the cities and towns, and, once shy and retiring, is now bold enough to nest in suburban areas, often a few yards from houses and other buildings, and to rear its young in sight and sound of tram and other vehicular traffic. Visitors to Hobart's modern tourist hotel at Sandy Bay can daily see these handsome birds feeding on the well-kept lawns outside the windows. Flocks reach large proportions and the biggest I have seen was on the irrigated pastures near the Ouse—there, after counting about 250, I became weary of counting and gave it up, and there were probably three times that number.

Where paddocks are surrounded by bush or adjoin a forest area it is not unusual to find this species feeding in the timber as well as on stony ridges amongst scrub, although I have not found it breeding anywhere but in the open, where the white breasts of sitting birds are conspicuous to the trained eye. It is pretty to see the bird preparing to defend the eggs or young: she stands in a fighting attitude, wings outspread, ready to fly at the intruder, and this stance she adopts whether the 'enemy' be a sheep, cow or dog which has unwittingly approached her. She will 'show fight' also when her nest or chicks are near a railway line and she is disturbed by the near approach of a train. I have seen her often flying up into the faces of sheep and cows in an effort to prevent them from treading on eggs, and invariably the intruding creature seems to realize her meaning and draws aside.

Both species of Plover are protected fully by law in Tasmania; but though I am not in favour of removing them from the protected list, I do think that the great increase in the numbers of the Spur-wing has had its adverse effect upon other native birds, chiefly the Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*), which, being a ground-feeder also, has found in this species a serious competitor. In areas where the Plover is most common the Magpie is not so numerous, and in certain parts, notably on the north-west coast, where big flocks of Plover are seen, the Magpie has practically disappeared. It is possible also that the introduced Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) has not been without its adverse effect upon the Magpie, for huge flocks of this ground-feeder are seen in many parts of the State, feeding in the fields and pastures, and competing directly with the Magpie and kindred species.

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**A Correction in our Nomenclature.**—In *Naumannia*, 1856, Papagaien, no. 198, Bonaparte introduced *Psephotus hæmatorrhous* as a substitute name for *P. hæmatogaster* Gould, 1838. So the red-vented Blue Bonnet will be called *Northiella hæmatogaster zanda*. — GREGORY MATHEWS, Sydney, N.S.W., 10/10/42.