

Its mode of progression on the ground, like that of all the Thornbill family, is by means of hopping.—E. C. CHISHOLM, Bateman's Bay, N.S.W., 20/5/41.

**Speckled Warbler Displaying.**—At Christmas, 1942, I was photographing at the nest of Speckled Warblers at Toolern Vale. The young were well advanced and were being fed by both adults, the parents returning with food more or less alternately. Despite the size of the nestlings one bird often entered the nest and stayed there for some minutes at a time—the hen, I assumed.

Returning with food on one occasion, the other bird came up to the nest, and, as he neared the entrance, the hen put out her head and then drew back again. Immediately he spread the feathers of his tail in an elaborate fan and quivered his whole body, emitting a series of soft rapid notes. He crouched low and moved forward, still with fanned-out tail, the few inches to the nest. The hen looked out again, whereupon he increased the quivering of his body. The hen did not take the food, if he were proffering it, but in a few seconds left the nest. The male did not feed the young but followed her. What happened to the insect in his bill I could not see as both birds flew out of my vision.

The actions appeared to me to be a recrudescence of courtship display, possibly preliminary to mating for a second (or later) brood, for they seemed inspired by the sight of the hen in the nest and not connected with feeding the young, although without doubt the food had originally been acquired for that purpose. The Speckled Warbler breeds on into January at least and last season was a favourable one in the Melbourne district for late broods.—C. E. BRYANT, Melbourne, Vic., 7/5/43.

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## Obituary

A. J. ELLIOTT

From his brother Arthur, also a member of the Union, comes news of the death of Aubrey J. Elliott, in Bellenger hospital, on June 16, 1943. Death followed an operation for internal injuries caused by a fall while he was cutting scrub on his farm at Dorrigo on June 8, on his 33rd birthday.

Aubrey Elliott had been a member of the Union since 1928. He attended the camps at Moree (1933) and Leeton (1939). He was a keen observer, and had gathered a large series of field-notes of which, unfortunately, too few had been published in *The Emu*. He was an excellent photographer and had recently attained one of the rungs of his photographic aspirations in securing first-class pictures of one hundred species of birds. Contributions to *The Emu* indicate the quality of his pictorial work, the chief of which

was his extensive paper on the birds of the Moonie River District (vol. XXXVIII, p. 30). Other contributions appeared in *The Emu* as follows: XXVIII, 134 (with Arthur Elliott); XXXI, 263; XXXII, 273; XXXIV, 28, 196; XXXV, 129; and XL, 193. In addition Hindwood's paper on the birds of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (vol. XXXIX, p. 219) has some of Elliott's photographs as illustrations, including a fine picture, probably the first taken, of the Yellow Rosella. Photographing of this bird by several members was made possible by Aubrey Elliott's ladder tripod, a specially-prepared contrivance which he carried around in a utility truck and assembled for work at great heights.

Before settling at Dorrigo, Elliott was farming at Cam-bewarra, near Nowra. Prior to his death he was preparing a lengthy paper on the birds of that district for *The Emu*, and, in addition, had promised, at the request of the Editor, several shorter papers on individual species. It is hoped that some were completed and may be used, later.

Arthur Elliott writes that his brother was never happier than when in the bush watching or photographing birds, and when in the company of those similarly interested. The associations with the birds and the bush and those friends were strong upon him, and, when he felt that he was passing on, his request to Arthur was to "tell the bird-men." He is survived by his wife and young son.—C.E.B.

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Recent deaths of well-known ornithologists abroad include Rear-Admiral Hubert Lynes on November 10, 1942; William Plane Pycraft on May 1, 1942; and Clinton Hart Merriam on March 19, 1942.

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## Reviews

**Recent New Species.**—Since the publication of Meise's list prepared for the Ninth International Congress, 53 new species have been described. In 'New Species of Birds described from 1938 to 1941' (*Auk*, vol. 60, no. 2, Apl. 1943, p. 249) John T. Zimmer and Ernst Mayr analyze the novelties and another described in 1937 but not dealt with by Meise, the former dealing with the New World forms and the latter with the Old World species. In some cases an examination of more material is essential. Most of the new birds come from islands, high mountains or isolated habitats. Only in such places are any further discoveries likely.

Of the forms described 25 are recognized as good species or to be considered so lacking more exact detail, 15 are subspecific, 11 are synonyms and 3 probably hybrids. Included in the first group are *Petroica archboldi*, "perhaps remotely related to *P. rosea* and *rhodogaster*," *Philemon brassi*, "an isolated species without close relatives," and *Archboldia papuensis*, a "good genus and species," all from New Guinea and described by Rand in *Amer. Mus. Nov.*, no. 1072, 1940. The second group includes *Taeniaparadisea macnicolli* Kinghorn, probably referable to *Astrapia feminina* Neumann which is known only from the female; *A. mayeri*, another 'new' species, relegated to the synonymy of *feminina*, is known only from the male.—C.E.B.