

country would make that barrier any more surmountable to such a species than it was prior to settlement. In the light of the evidence at present available I suggest that there has always been a coastal race of the Striped Honeyeater in New South Wales, although admitting that it is strange that it has for so long been overlooked by ornithologists generally.

Striped Honeyeater.—Early in January, 1944, I made a brief visit to Taree, in the Manning River district, northern New South Wales. Early one morning I noticed a bird pass over the house where I was staying and perch on an outer branch of an ornamental tree growing in the neighbouring allotment. Although I could not detect its identity immediately, its flight appeared familiar. Bringing the telescope into use I found it to be a Striped Honeyeater (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*). I had previously read an account written by J. F. H. Gogerley in *The Emu*, vol. XXIII, page 32, describing the occurrence of these birds at Wallis Lake, approximately 40 miles south of Taree. Notwithstanding that, its presence in a busy township near the coast gave me a measure of surprise. I had acquired a fair knowledge of its appearance and call notes amongst the belar scrubs whilst on a visit to the Moree district, a little over a month previously.

A little later the same day I paid a visit to Harrington, 20 miles distant and situate at the mouth of the river. There I found Striped Honeyeaters in fair numbers amongst the drab-leaved banksias scattered over the camping reserve. Their call-notes, which I regard as unusual and difficult to describe, were quite a feature of the locality at the time. On previous visits the Little Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*) was the dominant species in that vicinity, but on this occasion it was entirely absent.

The Striped Honeyeaters appeared to share the area with numbers of Fig-birds (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*). It would be interesting to know if these two species drove the Wattle-birds out or whether they moved in whilst the Wattle-birds were absent. As the Little Wattle-bird is generally regarded as local in habits, the former would appear to be more likely, notwithstanding the fact of the recognized pugnacious character of the species. I did not observe or hear the Striped Honeyeater during six previous visits to the district, spread, however, only over the spring and summer months. —A. R. MCGILL, Arncliffe, N.S.W., 22/5/44.

Annual subscriptions are now due for 1944-1945, and the Hon. Treasurer will appreciate prompt payment. Exchange should be added to country and interstate cheques.