

followed around once in display before meeting again in mid-round. The older bird gave up and left while the juvenile continued with song (v. 3), display and some very energetic dancing, before hurrying away. Later I could see his white upturned tail in display on the forest floor.

Before dawn that day I had entered the forest to check up on regional and seasonal roosting places. Day was breaking when the first song came down faultlessly on the crisp air. One bird I noted planed from tree to tree, singing in each before settling on a branch twenty feet overhead. The distance travelled was fully one hundred yards. He preened, then sang, and performed a 'dummy dance' ere descending to breakfast.

On more sustained aerial travel, body and tail are 'streamlined' whilst the two appending central tail feathers are suspended under the body. One-third of the length from the tips is curved, nearly semi-circular, towards the objective in travel.—ALEX. GRAY, Bentleigh, Vic., 14/4/44.

## Reviews

**Birds—and the European Situation.**—There may be some who would cavil at the inclusion of a review of *The Incredible Year*, by A. H. Chisholm, Angus & Robertson Ltd., 1944, in this journal, but the fact that not only is the author a prominent member, but that, like the coloured weft that patterns a fabric, a 'streak' of ornithology runs through it, is the justification. It is a volume that the bird-lover would class as a contribution to pleasant books about birds in green places, and which the man who prefers books of travel would place in that category. An inquisitive (in the sense of enquiring and recording) Australian goes abroad and gives us his impressions of a fomenting continent at a tense time. His 'pryings' are as exhaustive as those of that Hugh Miller of whom he writes, exploring the Bass Rock and "wandering all over the island and meditating upon each article, from cannon-ball to pipe-bowl, that meets his roving eye."

Impressions of dictators and princes, of politicians and historic towns, we merely mention to mark that they are included. Like the author we look (as he is always looking and listening) for birds—and find them. They were there, in England, Scotland and continental Europe, leavening the ominous atmosphere of that incredible year. And they break through the more historical—geographical—biographical—political—topical parts of this book in the same way—from the sublime in the cherished memory of "the Dartford warbler, his breast illumined by a shaft of sunlight, singing bravely amid the flowering furze," to the ridiculous in the brewery employee who mistook the author's statement that he was looking for a dipper, along a likely stream for that curious bird, for a too eager acceptance of his invitation to sample the local bitter.—C.E.B.

**Pacific Waders**—No. 1248 *American Museum Novitates* is 'Northern Shore Birds in the Pacific,' by Eleanor Herrick Stickney. The winter ranges in Polynesia of seven species are discussed, the Golden Plover being the only one of the three circumpolar species which is common throughout. What factor prevents birds from overshooting the mark

in isolated groups such as the Taumotus, with consequent inevitable death in the unbroken waters beyond, is unknown, but guidance by older birds is probable.

There is agreement between Stickney's and Serventy's (*Emu*, vol. 43, p. 274) views that many records of the Grey-tailed Tattler should be checked for possible confusion with the Wandering species. The overlap area of these two birds (treated in this paper as sub-species), separated distinctly at Bering Strait, is over eastern New Guinea and Australia.

The tendency of the Turnstone to hug continental coasts is remarked upon; and, apropos the rarity of the Sanderling in Australia (with a single New Zealand record), the absence of a continental shore-line to guide birds across an ecologically unsuitable belt is suggested.—C.E.B.

**Birds of the Mistletoe.**—A. H. Chisholm's paper of this title (*Vic. Nat.*, vol. 61, p. 15) contains notes on *Grantiella picta*, with an account of records from the eastern mainland States and the Northern Territory, including personal notes of the Maryborough (Vic.) birds, first recorded there in 1937. Movements of the species are erratic, and Chisholm, whose writings often contain provocative questions, raises several here which might be productive of more intense observation, to discover, for example, why this honeyeater 'changed' its diet to mistletoe berries, and the extent to which its semi-migratory movements are regulated by the fruiting of the mistletoes. Brief notes on nesting Mistletoe-birds are also included.—C.E.B.

**Bird Notes in Agricultural Journals.**—The titles of a number of contributions to these journals are not indicative of ornithological matter contained therein. Keith C. McKeown and K. A. Hindwood in 'Overlooked Bird Papers' (*Aust. Zool.*, 10 (3), 1944, 274) have collated such contributions and given brief résumés of contents. Well-known authors are A. J. North, J. Burton Cleland, W. W. Froggatt, J. R. Kinghorn, A. M. Lea, S. A. White, C. French and Robert Hall. Many notes are trivial and of only casual interest, but others are much more substantial or important—for example, the description of the new genus *Ashbyia* is contained in one of the New South Wales publications. The list is a handy reference one and appears fairly comprehensive.—C.E.B.

**South Australian Ornithology.**—The *Sth. Aust. Orn.*, vol. xvii, pt. 2, contains a lengthy article on 'Bird Observations in the Alice Springs District,' by Warren B. Hitchcock and Howard E. A. Jarman, and a number of shorter articles. The Alice Springs list, of about 80 species—although some, such as *Amytornis*, do not identify the species—is preliminary only, being based on a five months' sojourn from late autumn to early spring. *Neositta leucoptera* is included as a possible new locality record, which it may well be.

E. F. Boehm writes on 'The Status of Sight Records.' Although one agrees with the statement that identity based on a skin is naturally more important than a report of recognition in the field, experience shows that *locality* is sometimes unreliable on data slips. Boehm also records the 're-discovery' of *Meliphaga fusca*, of which there are few earlier records—the first in 1924—in South Australia, in the Mt. Mary-Sedan Plains area.—C.E.B.

**Sydney Honeyeaters.**—A general account by K. A. Hindwood ('Honeyeaters of the Sydney District, County of Cumberland, N.S.W.', *Aust. Zool.*, 10 (3), 1944, 231) deals with 29 species, 21 of which breed regularly in the locality. Two others have been recorded nesting once only. The rarities are the Striped, Blue-faced, Black, White-fronted, Painted and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, and Little Friar-bird. Some of the species dealt with appear to be seasonal visitors to a greater extent than in many localities, where they are more constant. General

pertinent observations are included and a number of the species are illustrated. References to *Emu* papers on the group are frequent. The nomenclature of Mathews' 1931 *List* is followed.—C.E.B.

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## News and Notes

### W. A. FAUNA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A ministerial committee has been established in Western Australia to advise on the administration of the Game Act, and the following personnel was gazetted on April 28, 1944: Mr. A. J. Fraser (Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Chief Guardian of Game, *ex officio* Chairman), Major H. M. Whittell, Dr. D. L. Serventy and Mr. L. Glauert (Curator of the W.A. Museum). The Committee held its inaugural meeting on May 29 and among the matters to which it is directing its attention is the preparation of a modern Game Act. The existing Act was passed in 1912.

### NEW ZEALAND BIRD BOOKLETS

Mr. L. E. Richdale has generously donated a number of his booklets on (a) the Royal Albatross, and (b) the Southern Robin, for sale to members and others interested, at the price of 2/- and 1/- each respectively. Proceeds are for the Union's funds. Members requiring copies for themselves or for others—and this presents an opportunity to interest non-members in bird affairs—please make application to the Hon. General Secretary, enclosing the requisite amount.

### PRINTING *The Emu*

Recently the Controller of Paper issued an instruction that all periodicals should be printed on newsprint. An application for exemption from the provisions of the requirement, on the grounds that *The Emu* was required as a permanent scientific record, was granted, in view of the fact that the durability of newsprint is limited. This is gratifying as a recognition of the merit of the journal.

### OBITUARY

Dr. E. A. D'Ombraïn, a foundation member of the Union, died on June 23, 1944. A more extended notice will appear in the next issue.

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