

Thus the term 'Wood-Sandpiper' is applicable to either species and it is interesting to note that German ornithologists call *Tringa ochropus* the Wood-Sandpiper (Waldwasserläufer), *T. glareola* being the Marsh-Sandpiper (Bruchwasserläufer).

Seebohm, in *The Birds of Siberia*, 1901, found the Wood-Sandpiper (i.e. *T. glareola*) common on the edges of marshes and the forest trees and "we shot specimens from the summits of high bare trees sixty-five feet at least from the ground." Miss M. D. Haviland, in her *Forest, Steppe and Tundra*, 1926, found both the Green Sandpiper and the Wood-Sandpiper in the willow thickets and deeper woodland during her Siberian journey.

Northern authors agree that these species are seldom seen on the open shore and the preference for woodland swamps appears to be maintained even in their trans-equatorial 'winter' homes, at any rate for *T. glareola*.

---

**Migratory Birds and Overhead Wires.**—On October 19, 1944, a passing motorist saw a strange bird running about in the traffic in Union Street, Newcastle, and, after a brisk chase, captured it. It was sent up to Mr. Frank Drew, of West Maitland, for identification, and he called me in to see the bird. It proved to be a Barred-rumped Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) and appeared to be in no way damaged. It was in quite good condition and both wings and legs were sound. It was given the run of the garden in which is a small pond, and supplied with garden worms and scraps of meat. It ate nearly everything, always taking the food to the water to moisten before eating. It became very tame and would come up to Mr. Drew for food. On November 4 a very severe westerly gale set in and during this the bird took off but unfortunately hit the electric light wires and was killed.

I have a theory that these nomadic and migratory birds must become mystified by the bright city lights and apparently strike the wires when flying low and are either killed or injured. It was strange that this bird, after surviving one lot of wires, should meet its death by hitting another.

On December 23 Mr. A. J. Gwynne of New Lambton, Newcastle, brought me in a small bird in a box, which some boys had found running about in the street. It proved to be a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*) in winter plumage. New Lambton is only a short distance from where the other bird was found. This bird also appeared to be sound, and had no apparent fractures. I gave it the run of the garden and it soon became accustomed to its surroundings, but was always on the run. It was a most outstanding bird with its large prominent dark eyes, mottled markings

on the back, neck and back of the head, and the long-striding, 'springy' run. When it stopped it had that same curious habit of the plover, of bobbing its head up and down every now and then with a quick jerky motion. It called frequently at times, then it would not utter a sound perhaps for a few hours. I learned to copy it and it would answer me, the call being best described as 'che-wit,' usually only given once, with perhaps an interval of twenty seconds in between. It very much resembled one of the calls of a Cockatiel (*Leptolophus hollandicus*). It fed on garden worms, slaters and other life that it picked up at the edge of the duck pond and in the lawns.

This bird died after about two weeks before it could get well enough to fly again. I made an examination of the body and found it had, at some time, suffered a severe fracture of the breast bone, as it was all out of shape and calloused over where it had nearly healed. The mark was one that could have been caused by the bird's coming into contact with telephone or other wires. The bird must have been running about for some time before it came into my possession, as the breast bone could not, in my opinion, have knitted so well in the short time that I had it.

There are very large flocks of these and other waders at Stockton and the upper reaches of Newcastle Harbour, and it is highly probable that some of the birds, on arrival after their long migration, become confused with and attracted by the lights and hit the wires when coming down. I have heard of other birds being found dead in Newcastle, but, as all these are referred to by most people as 'snipe,' it is impossible to say what they might be. After seeing the large flocks of Godwits, Oriental Dotterels, Golden Plovers, Sandpipers, and Stints that abound, I think it highly probable that a good many of these birds may become casualties.—  
ATHEL F. D'OMBRAIN, West Maitland, N.S.W., 6/8/45.

---

## Obituaries

ARTHUR L. BUTLER

With the death of Mr. Arthur Larchin Butler at Sandy Bay on June 6 last, the Union lost one of its foundation members and Tasmania one of its leading field ornithologists. One time president of the Union, he was 83 years of age.

Few men possessed so extensive a knowledge of Tasmanian birds as Mr. Butler, who gave freely of it to all who sought his counsel. His many activities in other walks of life denied him time to publish his records and observations, though such a proposal was always in his mind; his contributions to the field knowledge of birds were made in