

Natal, South Africa

Hawksley, O., (*Bird Banding*, 1949, vol. 20, p. 185).

Two further records may have a bearing on the problem.

Kashmir

Whistler, Hugh, *Ibis*, 1936, p. 600.

Hawaii

Henshaw, H. W., *Birds of Hawaiian Is.*, 1902, p. 123.

## REFERENCES

- Falla, R. A., 1937, *B.A.N.Z. Antarctic Research Expedition, 1929-31*, Reports, Series B, II Birds.  
 Hitchcock, W. B., and Favaloro, N. J., 1951, *Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria*, no. 17.  
 Hitchcock, W. B., 1952, *Emu*, vol. 52, pt. 1, p. 68.  
 Palmer, R. S., 1941, 'White-faced terns', *Auk*, vol. 58, pp. 164-178.

## Reviews

**Channel Islands Birds.**—Our member, Mr. Roderick Dobson, of Sydney, who resided in Jersey from 1934 to 1946, has had published *The Birds of the Channel Islands*, Staples Press Ltd., London and New York. The records for the four principal islands—Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark—are dealt with, followed by general remarks and breeding data. Descriptions are not included, reference to *The Handbook of British Birds* being considered sufficient in that regard.

The author quotes extensively from Cecil Smith's *The Birds of Guernsey and the Neighbouring Islands*, 1879, and in fact, drawing on others' notes, as well as his own, gathers together the scattered records of a century. As many as 250 different species have been recorded, a large number, and apparently in the past anything rare was inevitably collected. Mr. Dobson himself refers to the islanders as being 'trigger-happy'. The man who shot a Barn Owl in a churchyard "and thought he had shot a cherubim" reminds one of the ornithological cleric in Wells' *The Wonderful Visit* who 'winged' an angel. Collection of specimens has been the means, however, of establishing that, with some species, both the British and continental races occur.—C.E.B.

**Western Australian Ornithology.** In the *Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 3, no. 5, June 1952, S. R. White has a contribution, 'Communal Nesting among White-winged Trillers and other Birds' (pp. 103-106), which deals with local aggregations of nesting pairs of the one or several species. He discusses various explanations of the phenomenon and favours one based on Fraser Darling's views that mass-stimulation in community-nesting birds results in a less protracted nesting season—a matter of high survival value to species which must take advantage of brief favourable conditions such as are characteristic of much of the drier parts of the State. W. H. Loaring and D. L. Serventy, 'Birds of the Moore River Gorge Country', pp. 107-115, compare their bird list with one made about a half-century earlier by F. Lawson Whitlock, and find an extension in range of dry-country species. Among short notes S. R. White has an important observation of a *Varanus* lizard preying on nestling Black Honeyeaters (evidence revealed by the accidental exposure of a photographic plate). Other notes include one on plumage variation in the Willie Wagtail (D. N. Calderwood), larder habit in the Western Magpie (S. Elliott), extension in range of Senegal Turtle-Doves (L. Sedgwick), birds and zamia seeds (E. H. Sedgwick), a large flock (of many hundreds) of White-fronted Chats

(W. H. Loaring), occurrence of the Red-eared Firetail at Wongong Brook (V. N. Serventy), and the Southern Emu-Wren near Perth (P. Kneebone).—D.L.S.

**South African Handbooks.** Longman's Field Handbooks include *Common Birds of the Cape*, 'Common Birds of the Central African River Systems' is contemplated, and we are now noting *Common Birds of the Bush*, by Dr. J. M. Winterbottom. These handbooks, at 5/-, are reliable and practical aids to identification. The one under review contains a key of ten helpful points in identification, accounts of 32 species, and four coloured plates. The area dealt with is the woodland lying between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn in Africa. In most of this area all of the species dealt with are common; many extend over a greater area. Publishers are Longmans Green & Co. Ltd., Cape Town.—C.E.B.

**Breeding Birds of Kashmir.**—Under this title R. S. P. Bates and E. H. N. Lowther (Oxford University Press, 1952) have provided an admirable companion for, in particular, any fortunate visitor to Kashmir. The keen student, too, will find between its covers a mine of information—obviously gathered by men who have had a long acquaintance with the living birds. The authors make no pretence to an exhaustive treatment but, as a regional handbook, the work sets a high standard. Technicalities are reduced to a minimum, references being given under each species to standard texts. Emphasis is on field identification, distribution, habits and nesting—all delivered in an authoritatively readable manner. The book is illustrated with 151 photographs, some of which are exceptionally good, and five coloured plates which, individually and collectively, enhance the value of the work. A good index and end-paper maps complete an attractive and useful bird-book.—W.B.H.

**South Australian Ornithology.**—There are three papers of some importance in the latest number of the *South Australian Ornithologist* (vol. 20, pt. 7). G. M. Storr, A. H. Lendon and R. W. McKechnie have recorded some interesting observations on certain species seen during a trip to south-eastern South Australia and adjacent parts of Victoria in October 1951. J. B. Cleland has reviewed, in some detail, the dispersal of plants by birds. G. M. Storr, in a provocative critique of a recent paper by Amadon on the Cracticidae, is diametrically opposed to that author's views on the phylogeny of the family. Whereas Amadon believes the magpies and currawongs to have been derived from the butcher-birds, Storr regards the latter as specialized offshoots from a 'pre-*Strepera*' stock. Storr also postulates that there is only one species of 'magpie' and, further, that the latter is nothing more than a terrestrial butcher-bird. Storr is not a pure theorist—he is applying field knowledge, quite skilfully, to taxonomic problems, and were there a little more 'concrete' proof to back up his postulates, one could easily be convinced of their truth.—W.B.H.

## News and Notes

### HONOURS FOR MEMBERS

At the anniversary meeting of the Linnean Society of London, held on May 24, 1952, Dr. Ernst Mayr, of the American Museum of Natural History, was one of two distinguished overseas scientists honoured by election as Foreign Members.

At the sixty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft held at Freiburg in June 1952, Dr. D. L. Serventy was elected a Corresponding Member of the Society.