

permanent residents), and, although on the whole it is openly timbered, there are several dense thickets of scrub in which a bird may lose itself within a few yards of a would-be observer. Also, there are several related species.

If similar lists can be compiled in other districts in temperate Australia, and I believe they can, then the phrase "in or near the tropics" gives only part of the truth. Encouragement for the effort lies in Hartshorne's own words—"More adequate surveys should eventually help to bring out the validity and the limitations of these and other principles concerning the distribution of musical birds."

Australian Bird Songs. — Re-reading my article on 'Musical Values in Australian Bird Songs' (*The Emu*, vol. 53 (1953), pp. 109-127) I consider that the following corrections or amplifications are necessary. It is sometimes easy (as I have recently come to realize) to confuse a single with a double octave. While I still incline to credit Crested Bell-birds and Whipbirds (in Queensland) with two octaves, I am inclined to think the Olive Whistler had but one, and more than inclined to think this of the Grey Thrush song which I spoke of as ascending two octaves.

My remark that the Golden Whistler may be confused with a Grey Thrush in the distance now seems to me absurd, a relic of the days when I knew few Australian birds. Eventually, also, I came to sense the difference between Superb and Albert Lyrebirds. The northern form sounds coarser, due probably to the character of the bird notes it imitates, such as the Satin Bower-bird's howling note. I saw no indication that it is more musical than the southern species, rather the contrary. The mystifying thing is that the superb Whipbird dawn chorus in Queensland seems to have added no beauty to the Lyrebirds' singing there. Or has it?

The distinctiveness of the songs of Olive Whistlers and Whipbirds in the Queensland rain forest suggests the possibility of distinct species in the making, especially in the case of the whistler, which is, I am told, separated by a hundred miles from the rest of the species. In this country our two meadow-larks (*Sturnella magna* and *S. neglecta*) have negligible differences other than call notes and song, yet are accounted *at the very least* 'semi-species'.

I ought to have thanked Mr. Hugh Wilson for his generous assistance in the preparation of the article, also Mrs. Curtis of Mt. Tamborine. My gratitude to them and many others is immense. Hearing again our native songsters leaves my admiration for those of Australia undimmed. — CHARLES HARTSHORNE, Chicago, U.S.A., 2/9/53.