

Two White-breasted Sea-Eagles were seen soaring over the swamps and later a nest was found. It was a very large one and had probably been in use for many years.

In a patch of lignum well out in the water two wrens (*Malurus*) were seen. They were very shy and I followed them for some time in hopes that they might be *M. melanotus*, a species I have not seen. However, they turned out to be *M. cyaneus* rather to my surprise, as I had not expected to see this species so far west. Purple-backed Wrens (*M. assimilis*) were observed in a patch of small lignum bushes on the plain and two nests with young were found, one containing a brood of five. Several parties of White-winged Wrens (*M. leuconotus*) were seen in salt-bush country.

I had no time to explore to any extent the great beds of reeds and rushes across the channel, but doubtless they held much of interest. Reed-Warblers and Little Grass-birds appeared plentiful. Several Little Bitterns were seen and a nest found containing five eggs just starting to hatch.

Numerous wild pigs were seen and no doubt they eat some eggs and young birds, but probably not very many as a great number of the nests I saw would have been accessible to them. They were usually seen feeding out on the plain, but they also feed on the bulbous roots of the rushes where these are growing in shallow water. Whilst at one of the ibis colonies I heard several pigs squealing and grunting as they entered the water from the plain, and I watched to see if they were after the birds, but they waded and swam right through the lignum and disappeared into the rushes.

I might add that my car had to be abandoned thirty miles from the swamps and the remainder of the journey was accomplished by truck, jeep and finally horse. However, the bird life more than compensated for the difficulty of access.

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**Albino Spur-winged Plovers.**—This year (1957) I have seen two pure albino Spur-winged Plovers in north-eastern Tasmania—one at Patersonia (about 16 miles from Launceston) in January, the other at Scottsdale (40 miles from Launceston) in February and March. The Patersonia bird seems to have disappeared, but the Scottsdale one is still feeding with a flock, mainly on the Scottsdale golf-links. It is just possible that the Patersonia bird may be the Scottsdale bird. I have also received reports of one being seen eight miles further north-east from Scottsdale.

Spur-winged Plovers are now so numerous in the farming districts of Tasmania—it is nothing unusual to see a flock of a hundred in a paddock during the autumn—that there is, presumably, a greater chance of albinism occurring. —J. R. SKEMP, Myrtle Bank, Tas., 12/3/57.