

'hard' parts of the egrets at different seasons and during adolescence. The problems of following through the life history of birds which are nomadic in habit are fully appreciated, but every effort should be made to solve these as soon as possible. It is understood that all three species are represented in the Sir Colin Mackenzie Sanctuary at Healesville, and it is hoped that the opportunity will be taken to keep detailed records of all variations.

There is another point which has emerged. Many persons appear to use the term 'black' very loosely, and this applies to some authors of ornithological works. None of the Australian egrets has plain black legs, yet it is relatively common to read in descriptions 'black legs'. This is an aspect which tends to cloud the issue of identification unnecessarily, making for confusion which need not be.

We wish to record our appreciation for the help given us by all those mentioned in the text, and express the hope that the observations and comments made will encourage others to examine all these species critically, and to make known their findings.

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**Chick of Nightjar.**—At the R.A.O.U. Camp-out at Noosa Heads in October 1958, Mr. Cecil Cameron found a nest of the White-throated Nightjar. The date was after October 7. There was one egg on the ground on a ridge between two deep gullies.

After the R.A.O.U. party left, on October 17, we went up at 7 o'clock each morning to watch. On October 29 the egg was hatched, and on October 30 the two parent birds were sitting on the ground about a foot apart, one covering the chick. The camouflage was excellent. The bird itself looked like an old weatherworn chip lying on the ground.

When the chick hatched it was of a deep golden brown colour—like a cocker spaniel. When we saw it, the chick had been shifted about a yard, to rest on fresher fallen gum leaves, which were the exact colour of the young bird.—CHARLES and ESSIE GREEN, Noosa Heads, Qld., 12/5/59.

**Unsuitable Definitions of Local Bird Movement.**—My banding of small passerines in central New Zealand leads me to think it may be difficult to understand New Zealand's local bird movements by reliance on Landsborough Thomson's definitions (*Bird Migration*, 1942 edn., pp. 20-22). Those definitions possibly relate to continental areas and immediate environs, rather than to islands subject to oceanic influences such as New Zealand. Accordingly New Zealand students may need independent definitions, though local movements, as described by Landsborough Thomson, nevertheless occur.—H. L. SECKER, Upper Hutt, N.Z., 15/7/59.