

in plenty, and may be seen soaring in undulations to a moderate height, and uttering their somewhat sibilant notes, which can hardly be dignified with the name of song.

On the 8th September the first immigration of *Graucalus parvirostris* took place. At noon a party of twelve individuals passed inland from seaward, flying low—that is, at about 30 to 40 feet up—from north-west to south-east, the wind being light from N.E. with a drizzling rain. Always, when at Devonport in spring, I notice these small companies of “Summer-Birds” passing over in September, and always from the north-west. One would much like to know where they have wintered, this being at present a matter of conjecture.—H. STUART DOVE, West Devonport.

From Magazines, &c.

NEW ACANTHIZA FOR AUSTRALIA.—In *The Vict. Nat.*, xxvi., p. 55, Mr. A. J. North, C.M.Z.S., has described from Mr. H. L. White's collection a new species of *Acanthiza* found in Western Australia. It has been named *A. whitlocki*, after its discoverer, Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock, who obtained it near Lake Way. *A. whitlocki* is apparently closely allied to *A. apicalis*, from which species it may be distinguished by its greyish-brown instead of olive-brown upper parts, by its purer white under parts, and by the broader black sub-terminal band on the tail feathers.

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INTRODUCING GERMAN OWLS INTO NEW ZEALAND.—*The Auckland Weekly News* (7th October, 1909) furnishes a half-tone (photo.) illustration of a cage containing 10 little Owls imported from Germany by the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association. It is stated a number of these little Owls were imported some time ago, and several that had taken up their quarters in farm-yards were said to be doing good work in clearing the place of Sparrows and other small birds. “Other small birds” has rather an ominous signification. May they not be *useful native birds*?

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PETRELS OFF THE NEW SOUTH WALES COAST.—In *The Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.*, xxxiv., p. 419, Mr. A. J. North, C.M.Z.S., records an adult male Forster Petrel (*Puffinus gavia*) having been picked up dead by Mr. Wm. Barnes after an easterly gale in September, 1908. In the same volume, p. 589, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull records that he found the White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) breeding on Tom Thumb Island (Five Islands Group), near Wollongong, on 17th October, 1909. Hitherto this little Petrel had not been recorded as breeding on the New South Wales coast. The island, barely half

an acre in extent, was inhabited by a colony of about 100 Storm-Petrels. The burrows (from 2 to 4 feet in length) were made in the sand beneath the roots of *Mesembryanthemum*. On the south-eastern side, where the early arrivals had made their homes, the burrows contained partly-incubated eggs; on the middle of the island the eggs were fresh, while on the north-western side the latest arrivals were sitting in their burrows, preparatory to laying.

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THE SHINING CUCKOO.—An interesting discussion regarding the migration and nidification of the Shining Cuckoo (*Chalcococcyx lucidus*) was carried on recently in the columns of *The Lyttelton Times*, New Zealand. Mr. James Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S., contributed an interesting article on the migration of birds generally, with special reference to the Shining Cuckoo, and a number of correspondents forwarded notes of more or less value on the subject. Mr. Drummond stated that the country in which this Cuckoo spends the winter months had not yet been ascertained, but further observations would probably fix New Guinea as the place of its winter residence. The species had been reported from Java, Sumatra, and several other islands in the Malay Archipelago, New Guinea, the western, northern, and eastern parts of Australia, Tasmania, New Caledonia, and the Kermadecs. Truly an extensive range. In regard to the parasitical habits of *C. lucidus*, Mr. Drummond received a mass of interesting notes from correspondents, which were summarized in the nature column which he conducts in *The Lyttelton Times*. Messrs. F. G. Sparrow, L. F. Beeson, and R. C. Bruce gave evidence as to the adult Cuckoos sometimes feeding their young, instead of leaving this duty to foster-parents. Several of Mr. Drummond's correspondents bore testimony as to the ventriloquial powers of the Shining Cuckoo. Dr. Fulton, a Cuckoo specialist, stated that the ventriloquistic whistle is characteristic of birds of parasitic habit.

Reviews.

[“A Bush Calendar.” By Amy E. Mack (Mrs. L. Harrison).]

THE author of “A Bush Calendar” is well known to many members of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, of which she is a valued member (Mr. L. Harrison is a member of the Council), and her charming little volume of bird and plant lore is assured of a place on their book-shelves. It appeals not alone to nature-lovers, but to every lover of pleasant books; for that “A Bush Calendar” is a real contribution to the slender stream of Australian literature few critics of sensibility will deny. Mrs. Harrison takes us round the year with nature as she knows it about her home. From August to

July she has been afield to watch with tender sympathy the doings of the birds, their comings and goings, their love-making and nesting; and she has seen the flower buds unfold and spread their petals to the sun. Each month brings its pageant of beauty, and our author has gathered of the garlands to deck the Austral months from August to July. At the end of each chapter are given useful lists of the flowers blooming, the birds nesting and arriving and departing during the month. The book is pleasant throughout, but some chapters are more happily written than others. Very daintily the author describes the "invitation" of a November day:—

"It was two butterflies that did the mischief to-day. . . . While I sat at breakfast on the verandah those blue butterflies came floating by, and the blouses were forgotten. In and out amongst the red tips of gum saplings they flittered, living turquoise in a frame of burnished copper. A little wind, too young to be rough, flittered softly after them and set the red leaves dancing as it passed. Some sunbeams, seeing dancing leaves, came to join in the fun, and butterflies, leaves, and sunbeams danced and sparkled together in the soft, sweet breeze. It was irresistible."

There are many other passages as good as the one quoted, but the description of sweet-scented wattle in "June" is best of all. Of the scientific name of this wattle, *suaveolens*, the author says:—"The word shapes itself softly and sweetly from the lips, just as the flower breaks gently and deliciously from its full, round bud." That is a very beautiful sentence, a delicate, lovely thought woven into words which might have been written by the gentle-hearted naturalist of Selborne.

The volume is finely illustrated with reproductions of photographs from nature, and is printed on art paper.—C. B.

["Special Catalogue, No. 1, Australian Museum, Sydney."]

THE first part of this important and artistic work on "Nests and Eggs," by Mr. A. J. North, C.M.Z.S., was noticed (*Emu*, i., page 28) eight years ago. It has now (September, 1909) reached the concluding part (iii.) of vol. ii., which is a continuation of the Order Passeres, and contains the Families *Hirundinidæ*, *Artamidæ*, *Sturnidæ*, *Motacillidæ*, *Alaudidæ*, *Pittidæ*, and *Menuridæ*, and a portion of the Order Picariæ, comprising the Families *Caprimulgidæ*, *Podargidæ*, *Coraciidæ*, *Meropidæ*, and *Alcedinidæ*. The figures of eggs, which are of the natural size, were reproduced by the heliotype process at the Government Printing Office, Sydney, from photographs of the specimens, taken under the direction of the Government Printer, Mr. W. A. Gullick, and the supervision of Mr. A. E. Dyer. As in the previous parts, the illustrations of birds are reproduced from drawings made by the late Mr. Neville Cayley, who, unfortunately, has not lived to see the splendid reproductions of the birds which the part under notice contains.