

spot, the size of a silver penny, almost meeting together at the back part."

This cannot have anything to do with the bird called *Charadrius cucullatus* by Vieillot in 1818, as Peters, p. 247, would have us believe.

- P. 160, line 93, make **ruficapillus** a sub-species of **Leucopoli** **alexandrinus alexandrinus** (L.) 24-275), the Kentish Plover.

Charadrius alexandrinus Linné, *Syst. Nat.*, ed. X, vol. I, p. 150, Jan. 1, 1758. Egypt. Fig. Dresser vol. VII, pl. 523, 1876 as *Ægialitis cantiana*.

Leucopoli **alexandrinus ruficapillus** (Temminck).
Leucopoli **alexandrinus tormenti** (Mathews).

- P. 166, line 98, an older name for **cyanopus** V. is **Numenius madagascariensis** (L.), Australian Curlew.

Scolopax madagascariensis Linné, *Syst. Nat.*, ed. XII, vol. I, p. 242, 1766 (pref. May 24). Madagascar error = Macassar, Celebes. Founded on Brisson, *Ornithologia*, vol. V, p. 321, pl. 28, 1760.

- P. 145, line 79, an earlier reference to **Noddi** is **Noddi** Berthold., *Nat. Fam. Thierr.*, p. 85, 1827, pref. dated Aug. 30, 1826. Type (by monotypy) *Sterna stolidus* L.

- P. 147, line 81, read
Bruchigavia novæhollandiæ novæhollandiæ
(Stephens) Southern Australia.
Bruchigavia novæhollandiæ gunni (Mathews) Tasmania.
Bruchigavia novæhollandiæ forsteri Mathews.
Northern Eastern Australia and New Caledonia.

Stray Feathers

Movements of Swifts.—In *The Emu* (Vol. xxxiv, p. 97, Mr. Bridgewater suggests that those members having unpublished records of the movements of Swifts should submit them to the Editor.

Below are my few scanty records:—

1927.

March 17.—About twelve Swifts (? sp.) flying N.E.

March 18.—The same to-day.

1928.

March 17.—Three Swifts (? sp.) flying high and fast in a southerly direction. Weather sultry. Sky clouded.

1932.

Jan. 10.—Flock of about twenty Spine-tailed Swifts hawking a few feet over low scrub. They "hurdled" the patches of scrub and flew close to the ground in between as Swallows often do, then

rose a few hundred feet, turned and dived down again to repeat the performance. The weather in the early afternoon was very sultry, becoming worse later. The barometer was falling quickly and heavy clouds were advancing from the west. They had gone by the next day.

Mar. 26.—One Swift (? sp.) flying low at Black Rock, Melbourne. Rough and showery weather.

Mar. 27.—Two Swifts (? sp.) at Black Rock and two over the Keilor Plains. All flying low. Weather the same as yesterday.

MARC COHN, Bendigo, Vic.

Tawny Frogmouth's Mimicry.—One evening during mid-July of this year (1934), at about 5.45 p.m., I happened to be conversing with my shepherd, a man of long experience in the bush, when I heard the cry of what I always thought to be that of *Tyto castanops*, the Tasmanian Masked Owl, proceeding from an avenue of elms close to the homestead. The sound, "O-oom, o-oom," repeated several times, was so close that I walked over towards the trees to investigate. I was surprised to find that it proceeded from a Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), sitting on one of the lower boughs of an elm tree.

I called out to the man, who was just walking away home, saying that I always thought this sound was made by the big Owl. He agreed with me, and returned to my side where I was standing right under the bird, where we stood for a minute looking up at it quietly discussing its call, when to our amazement the loud peal of a Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) rang out from the tree in the avenue opposite to that in which the Frogmouth was sitting. It was nearly dark by then, and it gave us both a very eerie sensation, as, apart from the darkness, the Kookaburra is very seldom seen here. We stepped across the road instantly, and, looking up into the tree from which the sound proceeded, we saw no Kookaburra but another Frogmouth sitting in one of the lower branches of the elm. We were within twelve feet of it when it flew silently away to some *Pinus insignis* trees nearby.

It would be interesting to know if any of our members has ever known the Frogmouth indulge in this wonderful mimicry of *Dacelo gigas*, for there can be no question that it was the Frogmouth which rendered it so faithfully.—ROBT. W. LEGGE, Cullenswood, Tas., 14/10/34.

Notes on the Western Magpie.—I have had great opportunities of watching this bird (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*) at Nedlands, Western Australia, and will set down a few notes, including certain points in which I find its ways differ from those of the Black-backed Magpie (*G. tibicen*), mentioned in Mr. A. J. Elliott's article in *The Emu*, vol. XXXIV, page 28.

The Western bird always attacks with bill and wing. It is a common occurrence to see a Magpie swoop down and take a boy's hat or cap from his head and fly off with it. The male always attacks first, but is soon strongly backed by the female. Not only do both birds attack an intruder, but the harsh cries seem to be a rallying cry for all Magpies within hearing distance, and they may be seen coming from all directions uttering their strident alarm notes. Once these other birds arrive the nest robber must retire for he cannot watch all sides at once, and the determined attack of a dozen Magpies is at least disconcerting.

They seem to have their own family districts and any intruding Magpie is driven away or killed. Tame birds from any other district have to be kept in a cage or they will be killed. I once took four young birds from a nest about two miles from home. Knowing the local Magpies' habits, I released the young birds in their own territory and they were not molested in any way.

After the young have left the nest and are flying a little, the parents exhibit a peculiar action. If the young bird attempts a flight of more than about thirty yards the parents will fly above it and settle on its back so as to force it to the ground. This is possibly done to prevent the young bird from unduly weakening itself, and I have often caught young birds after they have been forced down. Another interesting fact is that both birds take turns at incubating the eggs and feeding the young.

I once found a Magpie's nest containing three eggs and a large cog wheel—the wheel was worked into the lining of the nest and only one portion of it was showing. Around this point the three eggs were arranged. The wheel is now in the possession of the Western Australian Naturalists Club.—ALAN G. KILPATRICK, Brisbane, Queensland, 11/8/34.

Reviews

[*An Aviary on the Plains*. By Henry G. Lamond. Published by Angus and Robertson, Sydney. 228 pp.]

This book is written on the assumption that the area between the 137th and 139th degrees of longitude, and the 20th and 22nd parallels of latitude, on the western border of Queensland, forms a vast aviary. The author takes the reader with him on a trip through his aviary pointing out its inhabitants with their interesting and varied ways of life. His interests seem to largely centre in the many types of Hawks inhabiting the interior of Australia, and some of the descriptions of the magnificent flight of the Kites and Falcons are well-written.