

backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*), by Hindwood; the Buller's (Grey-backed) Shearwater (*Puffinus bulleri*), by Hoskin; and the Cook's Petrel (*Pterodroma cooki*), by McGill—all three New Zealand breeding species.

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White Wing-bars of Chestnut-crowned Babblers.—Having read A. R. McGill's 'Stray Feather' on the above subject in *The Emu*, vol. 55, p. 74, just prior to going to a district where *Pomatostomus ruficeps* is plentiful, I was careful to take particular notice of the wing markings.

I spent Easter 1955 at Lake Victoria Station in New South Wales, some 60 miles north-west of Mildura, Victoria. In the saltbush country there this species is found in most of the timber patches, and could be classed as widespread and common. As McGill and others have remarked, it is extremely shy, quite unlike the other members of the genus, and I had several unsuccessful attempts to get closer to the birds than about 200 yards. However, in driving my car across country I came upon a family party and was able to observe them in comfort at less than 20 yards' distance. I found that this lack of fear of a car was common to all parties of Chestnut-crowned Babblers, and I was able to observe that the wing bars are totally eclipsed when the bird is in full flight, but in some individuals faint white marks can be seen when the wings are not beating and the bird glides along, as they frequently do.

Fearlessness of cars is found in many birds and is unfortunately present in the Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*), a fact which may ultimately lead to its extermination.—

CLAUDE M. AUSTIN, Coleraine, Vic., 7/6/55.