

Predation by Grey Shrike-thrush.—At the Cranbourne sandpits, 30 miles south of Melbourne, on July 27, 1965, R. P. Cooper and I saw a Grey Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla harmonica*, fly to a stump with a live mouse clutched in its talons. Then, holding it in its bill, it began to hit it against the stump. We tried to flush it from the mouse and we were quite close before it was able to fly off with it into thick cover. We were unable to examine it more thoroughly, unlike Hindwood (1955), whose "mouse" turned out to be a young pygmy glider in the autumn.

LeSoeuf (1904) refers to a little Chestnut-bellied Quail (presumably a King-quail, *Excalfactoria chinensis*), which was shot. Though falling close to the shooter, a Grey Shrike-thrush immediately picked it up, flew into a tree and ate it. Possibly, had it been alive, a bird of this size would have been too large for an attack by this species. Hobbs (1960) reports that an adult tree frog, of body length $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, was attacked, killed and eaten by a Grey Shrike-thrush.

Although it is well known that mice are taken by Hawks and Owls, Kookaburras, Magpies and Ravens also include them in their diet. Even the Lyrebird occasionally includes a mouse as "something more substantial", Campbell (1901).

Lea and Gray (1935) give the food of the Grey Shrike-thrush, from examination of stomach contents, as "Insects, snails, centipedes, spiders, worms, small lizards, birds, beetles, wasps, caterpillars". Therefore, it would appear that the Grey Shrike-thrush is the only small bird on record to prey on mice.—MRS. P. N. REILLY, East Brighton, Vic., 15/5/66.

REFERENCES

- Campbell, A. J. (1901), *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*, Part 1: p. 522.
Hindwood, K. A. (1955) 'Grey Thrush eating Pygmy Glider', *The Emu*, 55: 161.
Hobbs, J. N. (1960), 'Grey Thrush taking Tree Frog', *The Emu* 60: 66-7.
Lea and Gray (1935), 'Food of Birds', *The Emu*, 35: 87.
LeSoeuf, D. (1904), 'Grey Shrike Thrush a Bird of Prey', *The Emu* 3: 185-6.