

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Painted Quail in the Darling Range.—The Painted Quail (*Turnix varia*) has during the past two years increased in numbers in the jarrah forest country west of the Mundaring Weir. Pairs of these birds can often be flushed and several specimens have been obtained dead on the Mundaring Weir Road. They seem to be fairly evenly distributed throughout this area and if not actually seen their presence can be detected by their circular, debris-free, feeding circles. In one swampy locality they have their permanent sleeping depressions ringed with accumulated droppings in the shelter of tussock scrub or rushes. This roosting area was first noted on March 13, 1963.

Dr. D. L. Serventy informs me that he has seen these quail on various occasions since 1959 at The Knoll, Gooseberry Hill, around the upper end of the old zig-zag railway. On November 21, 1962, the British Museum (Natural History) Expedition here collected a male specimen which had greatly developed gonads.

—J. DELL, Kalamunda

Occurrence of the Spotted Diamond-bird in the Perth Area.—The Spotted Diamond-bird (*Pardalotus punctatus*) is one of the species which disperses radially from the South-West corner each autumn. In some years this dispersion movement fails to reach the Perth area. In recent years the birds reached Perth in 1958, 1959 and 1960. They were not recorded during 1960 and 1961 but have appeared again this year (1963). They are usually first met with in April. The extreme limits of the movement have not been adequately mapped. In the *Birds of Western Australia* Whittell and I place the northern limit of the species' occurrence as Cockleshell Gully, just north of Jurien Bay. On April 24, 1959, Dr. G. F. Mees collected a specimen at a swamp near King's Homestead, 20 miles north of Cockleshell Gully. To the south-east I know of no records of occurrence beyond the Stirling Ranges. It would be interesting if ornithologists could pay attention to the autumn, winter and spring occurrences of this species so that its movements, and their annual fluctuations in extent, could be better known.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

The Little Grass-bird in Central Western Australia.—According to D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1962, 3rd edn., p. 303), the Little Grass-bird (*Megalurus gramineus*) is confined to the south-west of the State, between Hamelin Pool, near Sharks Bay, and Esperance. On August 30, 1962, while on a field trip in the region of the Canning Stock Route, north-east of Wiluna and Lake Nabberu, I heard the characteristic mournful trisyllabic song of this species at Windich Spring, and on investigating saw at least one bird in a patch of tall rushes.

Windich Spring is situated about 415 miles ENE of Hamelin Pool, and about 80 miles NNE of Wiluna. It is a permanent expanse



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