

and frequently chased other birds from their neighbourhood. On one occasion both of them followed a Raven (or Crow) for a long distance, and tried to hasten its departure by repeated peckings, but the marauder did not once turn upon them. Ground-Larks (*Anthus australis*) were vigorously pursued, but were never overtaken. Whether the Lark ascended in short spirals, or shot almost vertically upwards, or sailed down the wind like a leaf floating down a stream, he left the Magpie behind, and the latter invariably gave up the pursuit and returned to the ground when the Lark had attained the height of from 100 to 200 feet.—J. R. M'CLYMONT.

* * *

MALURI.—A MODIFICATION.—Mr. A. W. Milligan, of his own volition, has been good enough to send for my inspection the Blue-breasted Wrens (the true *M. pulcherrimus* of Gould*), procured on his Stirling Range expedition (an account of which is given in this issue) that have enabled me to modify a portion of my work on the *Maluri*. In "Nests and Eggs," p. 178, I have stated:—"Should there really be a bird in the south-west with an indigo throat, then there is also a black-throated variety between it (*M. pulcherrimus*) and *M. lamberti* in the east." This proves to be a somewhat paradoxical statement—*wrong* in supposing there was not an indigo-throated bird, but *right* in stating there is a black-throated variety between it and *M. lamberti*. For this intermediate variety Mr. A. J. North has since assigned the name *M. assimilis*—see *Vict. Nat.*, vol. xviii., p. 29 (June, 1901). Attention, however, was first directed to this probable third kind in *The Ibis*, p. 11 (January, 1901). For No. 149, or *Malurus pulcherrimus*, in my book, page 177, the "geographical distribution" should be Western Australia only, while North-West and South Australia and Victoria apply to *M. assimilis*, with Mr. North's additional localities thrown in. Consequently, in regard to these alterations, "Observations," &c., under my *M. pulcherrimus* may be construed accordingly.—A. J. CAMPBELL.

* * *

BLACK BUTCHER-BIRD.—Writing from Cairns, under date 28/1/03, Mr. E. M. Cornwall says:—"21st December, 1902.—Went to a patch of scrub where I had taken a clutch of eggs last season and had seen the birds at different times during the year. Approaching the place I saw one old bird carrying food, and immediately after the other appeared carrying a grub. I then saw that they were feeding two fully-fledged young, *which were both brown*. Although I have seen very many of both the black and brown Butcher-Birds, I have never noticed the black and brown together. The pairs were invariably either both black or both brown. Mr. W. T. White says he has found the young ones

* The British Museum "Catalogue of Birds," vol. iv., p. 295, erroneously states that the throat is "deep black" instead of indigo-blue.



Campbell, Archibald James. 1903. "Maluri.—A Modification." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 3(1), 58–58.

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