

A KAGU CHICK.—In reference to my notes on the Kagu (*Rhinocetus jubatus*) in *The Emu*, vol. iv., page 166, Mr. H. E. Finckh (Sydney) has thoughtfully supplied me with the following interesting remarks respecting the successful hatching of a Kagu chicken, together with a photograph of the same, which is here reproduced. (See Plate IV.) I believe the young of the Kagu has hitherto been undescribed. Mr. Finckh states:—

“On the 25th March, 1905, the birds paired, and on the 7th April an egg was laid. On the seventh day the egg proved fertile, and the birds sat on it for five weeks and one day, the male bird sitting most of the time—I should say four out of the five weeks. On the thirty-second day I observed the egg cracked, which cracks closed entirely as the egg cooled when the bird left it to feed (to keep the chick warm, I should think). I noticed the same for the next three days, the egg at times appearing quite perfect. On the next day (the thirty-sixth) the egg was indented, as if damaged from the outside; then I observed the male bird most carefully peel the egg to about two-thirds without damaging the inside skin, the chick moving freely and chirruping. Towards dusk he forcibly broke the skin, laying the chick partly bare, and then sat on it for the night. The next morning the young one was perfectly out and dry—a lively, fluffy ball, with a big and heavy head. The old ones were very anxious to feed it by taking up as many as six worms in their bills and dangling them round its head. The chick seemed very helpless, so I removed it at times and fed it with worms. The female bird did not much object to my removing the young, but the male always showed fight. The young took the feed readily, and grew stronger, but very seldom opened its eyes, which were very dull. Wet and cold weather then set in, the nest got a little damp, and on the eighth morning, unfortunately, I found the chick dead. The colour of the chick may be described as dark brown with light fawn markings, while the legs and bill are brownish, and the eyes black.”—A. J. CAMPBELL.

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TASMANIAN “STRAYS.”—Mr. H. C. Thompson, of Launceston, a member of the A.O.U., has the following note in his diary, which bears upon the question of the migration or otherwise of *Petræca phænicea* at the approach of winter, as touched upon by Mr. A. G. Campbell in his paper appearing in *The Emu*, vol. iv., p. 118:—“Launceston, Tas., 1904. Several Flame-breasted Robins were observed feeding at a manure-heap in the corporation yard on 21st, 28th, and 29th April, and as late as 15th June; these birds were very tame.”

Spine-tailed Swift (*Chaetura caudacuta*).—Why is it that these birds are seldom seen here until some date in February, and then almost always after a storm of wind and rain? My own theory is that, as they subsist here chiefly upon flying ants, and upon the winged forms of the termite (so-called “white-ant”), they time their arrival to suit the appearance of these insects, which usually



Campbell, Archibald James. 1905. "A Kagu Chick." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 5(1), 32–32.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/mu905029g>.

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