## Bird Prosecutions under the "Game Acts," Victoria. [Emu Ist Oct.

Date.	Court.	Offence.		Fine.
1/3/07	 Horsham (2)	 Killing Wild Duck		105., £1
	1	 ,,		IOS.
	Serpentine Creek			£2 5s.
9/4/07	 Mortlake (2)	 Killing Quail		ea. £2 2s. 6d.
21/2/07	 Rokewood	Killing Wild Duck		
24/8/07	 Portland (3)	 Destroying Swan eg	ggs	ea. 6s.
13/11/07	 Birregurra	 Killing Wild Duck		£I
7/11/07	 Geelong	 Killing Jackass		IOS.
1/11/07	 Nagambie	 Killing Wild Duck		IOS.
27/6/07	 Edenhope	 ,,		158.

94

[Grand total,  $\pounds_{156}$ , which does not include "costs" obtained or  $\pounds_3$  fine at Geelong (22/1/07) for having an illegal gun.]

## Stray Feathers.

EMUS IN THE GRAMPIANS.—Constable Curtain (Stawell West), in a recent report for the Chief Commissioner of Police, states :— "There are a good many Emus in the valleys of the Grampians. They are very tame—a good sign that they are not chased or shot at. I will keep a good look-out and see that they are not interfered with."

SPINE-TAILED SWIFTS.—In the July issue of *The Emu*, page 39, there appears a statement that some Spine-tailed Swifts (*Chœtura caudacuta*) were observed making southward. I have been observing the aërial movements of the birds of these parts for over 12 years, and have seen Spine-tailed Swifts appear and disappear scores of times, but never once have I seen them disappear to the southward. They have always come from south to south-east and have gone north to north-west.—F. M. LITTLER. Launceston (Tasmania).

CORMORANTS v. YABBIES, &C.—I had occasion to visit a district of north-west Victoria which is intersected by irrigation channels, in which I noticed many Cormorants feeding. I remarked to a resident of the district who was accompanying me—"I suppose there are fish in these channels?" "Oh, no," he said, "there are not any fish in them !" "Well," I said, "what are the Cormorants feeding upon?" "Oh, yabbies (*Crustacea*) and shrimps," was the laconic reply. "Do the yabbies bore through the walls of the channel and allow the water to run to waste?" "Yes." "Then the Cormorants, by destroying the yabbies, save much water for the irrigationist?" "Yes, millions of gallons!"—J. A. Ross. Melbourne.

WHITE-BROWED BABBLERS AS PILLAGERS.—While in the Coolgardie district, about the end of July last, I observed a pair of the above birds (*Pomatorhinus superciliosus*) pulling at what appeared to be the remains of some old nest in a low bush, while four Acanthizas were fluttering round them in a very excited state.



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Ross, J A . 1908. "Cormorants v Yabbies, &c." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 8(2), 94–94. <u>https://doi.org/10.1071/mu908094c</u>.

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