

language), and that the shrub appears to be a variety of *Eucalyptus obcordata*. Whoever is correct, there is no doubt that the thickets composed of it are "happy hunting grounds" for ornithologists. Last week I secured in that growth specimens of *Malurus pulcherimus* and of an Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*).^{*}—TOM CARTER. Wensleydale, Broome Hill (W.A.), 31/8/08.

From Magazines, &c.

"A NIGHT WITH THE BIRDS ON LAWRENCE ROCKS" is the account of a romantic outing by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., which appeared in *The Victorian Naturalist* for May, vol. xxv., pp. 12-24. Lawrence Rocks are situated at the entrance of Portland Bay, Victoria, and are the breeding-places chiefly of Gannets, Cormorants, Petrels, and Penguins. Mr. Mattingley took his excursion last Christmas, when he found the majority of the birds with downy young. The article is accompanied by reproductions from excellent photographs, namely:—"Gannet (*Sula serrator*) Rookery," showing a congregation of about 400 birds, with some on the wing, and "Dove-Petrel (*Prion desolatus* (?)) and young." General readers, as well as naturalists, will enjoy Mr. Mattingley's very descriptive and entertaining article.

* * *

BIRDS OF INKERMAN (N.Q.)—An article, interesting to Australian ornithological students, by Mr. Collingwood Ingram, F.Z.S., appears in the July (1908) *Ibis*, entitled "The Birds of Inkerman Station, North Queensland." The collection contains 93 species, including two new to science—namely, *Neositta magnirostris* and *Sphecotheres stalkerii*.

Inkerman is situated approximately 50 miles south-west of Townsville and about ten miles from the Burdekin River, and is described as "covered with an open forest, but in many places the gum-trees are very thinly scattered over the ground. The two commonest species, and those that give character to the landscape, are the Moreton Bay ash and the blood-wood; the former being by far the most numerous. But here and there are also trees of other kinds—pandanus, leichhardt, acacia, bottle-tree, and others; although, of course, the typical *Eucalypti* always predominate. Situated at wide intervals over nearly the whole of the station are narrow sheets of water—'lagoons,' as they are locally termed. These are often deep and sunk between steep banks, and not a few are thickly grown with blue water-lilies or with the more luxuriant lotus-lily."

^{*} The Western Australian form of the Emu-Wren differs from the eastern bird by the general upper surface being lighter coloured (greyish instead of brownish), and by the width of each curious tail-feather being only about half the width of those of the eastern examples.—A.J.C.

Although the majority of the birds were obtained at Inkerman, Mr. Stalker, the collector, obtained some on Mount Elliot, at the back of Townsville, and on Mount Abbot, in the Bowen district. It was on the former mount that the new *Sphecotheres* was found—a somewhat remarkable discovery so near a populous town. Two male adults were shot during December 1907, from a flock of 68,* and are stated to be most nearly allied to *S. salvadorii* of New Guinea.

The new Tree-runner—*Neositta magnirostris*—of which an excellent coloured plate is given, was procured at Inkerman, 14th March, 1907. It is closely allied to *N. striata*, “but differs from that bird by its generally larger size, and especially the longer and more massive bill,” &c.

Correspondence.

THE CAPE BARREN GOOSE.

To the Editors of “The Emu.”

SIRS,—I quite agree with Mr. Armstrong that the Cape Barren Goose is not holding its own. I have been in close touch with this fine bird for the last 20 years on the lakes and swamps near Mount Hamilton, in this Western District of Victoria, which is its chief stronghold. Mr. Frank Smith is evidently speaking of this same country when he speaks of his 1,000 birds, but I doubt if this number could be mustered. I know that flocks of 200 can be seen on one or two favourite feeding grounds, perhaps nearly as many as 20 years ago; but I also know of other feeding grounds not quite so good that are now practically deserted. What has become of the large flocks that used to frequent the shores of Lakes Corangamite, Gnarpurt, and the lakes north of Camperdown? Would Mr. Smith say that they are still plentiful there? I am told—but my information may not be correct—that these birds used to frequent portions of the Gippsland lake district, and some saltings near Port Fairy, and some portion of South Australia, and that they are not seen there now. Being of such a wary nature, it will be a long time before this bird is exterminated, but before that danger arises it must be protected all the year round.

It is pleasing to hear that Messrs. Maclaine Bros. do not break the eggs on their islands, but if reports are true there are some person or persons who do.

I only know of one instance of these birds nesting wild in this district, but Mr. Dennis, of Eeyeuk, has bred them for some years in captivity.—I am, &c.,

ERNEST G. AUSTIN.

* ? 6 or 8.—EDS.



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