

The male was very industrious in scraping up earth and vegetable *débris* into an egg-mound, which he attended regularly. When cold he scraped on more litter, and in the warm weather took some off. The keepers, not knowing the habits of the young, were nonplussed by their bolting into the coppice, for they are able to fly as soon as hatched. It is feared that the majority perished of cold or fell a prey to some marauding animal. Two or three were captured, however, and lived to be full grown. The next season an enclosure was put about the mound, but whether the season was too cold, or whether the male was not able to give proper attention to the mound, no chicks were hatched out that season. — E. T. HUBBARD. Glenorchy, Tasmania.

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ST. PATRICK'S RIVER (TASMANIA) NOTE.—During the early part of November I had the good fortune to spend a short holiday at St. Patrick's River, in the Patersonia district. The place at which I stayed was about 2 miles north and slightly to the west of where the A.O.U. had their camp-out after the last Hobart session. I found bird-life fairly plentiful, but some species entirely absent that were noted round Prestidge's during the camp-out. Thirty-five species were listed, as against eighteen mentioned as having been noted by the members, who were camped practically at the foot of Mt. Barrow. I have listed twenty-one species not mentioned in the account of the trip, and the campers saw six species not noted by myself. It is rather curious there should be such a difference in the lists when the distance between the two places is so small. Certainly the character of the country at St. Patrick's River is somewhat different to that round the foot of Mt. Barrow, being in places more open, with small, lightly-wooded flats along the river, and the hills were not too heavily encumbered with undergrowth. Where I was staying the Flame-breasted Robin (*Petræca phænicea*) was very plentiful, and three nests were found. Not a single specimen of the Scarlet-breasted Robin (*P. leggi*), noted so plentifully round Prestidge's, was to be seen. The Pink-breasted species (*P. rhodinogastra*) was recorded from Prestidge's, but I cannot do the same for it for St. Patrick's. Take another species of Robin, the Dusky (*P. vittata*). It is recorded by the campers, and I also have seen it plentifully in the same locality, whereas at St. Patrick's I found it very scarce. I noticed a nest of the Yellow-throated Honey-eater (*Ptilotis flavigularis*), containing three eggs, in a somewhat uncommon position—*i.e.*, in a tea-tree overhanging the river, some 10 feet from the surface. It was only discovered by seeing the birds fly in and out of the bush. As a tree that had fallen into the river had drifted under the nest, I was able, at the risk of a ducking, to crawl along to the nest and investigate. The eggs

differed somewhat from the usual type, being heavily banded with spots round the larger end. Another nest, containing two eggs, was found in the centre of a clump of band-grass, some 6 inches from the ground.—FRANK M. LITTLER. Launceston, 28/11/08.

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TASMANIAN NOTES.—My friend, Mr. H. C. Thompson, of Launceston, has sent the following notes made in the brief intervals of a busy life :—

“ The Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petrarca leggitii*) had three eggs on 6th September, and on 11th September a Flame-breasted Robin (*P. phænicea*) was sitting on three eggs in her nest built in Owen's timber yard on the Tamar, amid all the whirr of machinery and rending of logs. Probably the same pair built last spring on a rafter in a pole-shed situated in the Council's yard, Launceston, so they are not averse to the society of the working man. Two Brown-tails' (*Acanthiza diemenensis*) nests and several Yellow-tails' (*A. chrysorrhoa*), with eggs, were found at beginning of September. In a few reeds in the Dépôt grounds were two pairs of Grass-Birds (*Megalurus gramineus*), also a fine pair of Bald-Coots (*Porphyrio melanonotus*) about the same place. The latter were very tame ; one was resting on some bent reeds only a few yards from me, preening its feathers and taking no notice of me, not even when I stood up and got as close as the water would permit. When I projected a small missile into the water near him he flew very clumsily, with the legs hanging straight down, giving him an awkward appearance on the wing.” In a letter dated 1st November Mr. Thompson mentions that a third Coot had joined these two, one of which was sitting on five eggs, so it is evidently a case of a *ménage à trois*, one of those mysterious associations of three individuals which have been observed in the “ old country ” in several species, and discussed in the nature journals without eliciting any very satisfactory explanation. “ The Reed-Warblers (*Acrocephalus australis*) arrived at the North Esk about the middle of September. Several Yellow-throated Honey-eaters' (*Ptilotis flavigularis*) nests were found built close to the ground in saggs on the side of a tree-clad hill, three of them having eggs by the 4th October. Some of the Robins had fledged young about the same time. Bronze-Cuckoos (*Chalcococcyx plagusius*) were making their voices heard ; and both the Grey-tailed Thickhead (*Pachycephala glaucura*) and the Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) were sitting. No Shining Fycatchers (*Piezorhynchus nitidus*) had been seen by that date, although one or two pairs are generally located near Launceston each spring.” On 18th October Mr. Thompson and his son left home at 5.30 a.m. and went down the Tamar in a small boat, the wind southerly and cold until the sun got well up. At 8 a.m. they were at Tamar Island, and breakfasted in the



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