

from the post-office, and this prevented any sudden disturbance from the head centres of civilization, as only two mails a week can reach you. There are numerous rivers and creeks running down the sides of the mountains in these parts of Victoria, all ending in the Murray, and only a short time back they were all stocked with trout; but if some steps are not taken soon to exterminate the Cormorants all the money that has been expended to make this country a good fishing place will have been spent in vain.

Stray Feathers.

Avocets.—I saw a pair of Avocets last week near Mungindi, the only pair I have ever seen in North-West New South Wales.—F. C. MORSE. Coocalla, Garah (N.S.W.), 10/5/19.

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Swifts Drinking.—While driving my wife and family to Armidale (N.S.W.), 23rd December, 1918, we were following the road between Bingara and Bundarra, which in places runs just along the bank of the Gwydir River. We noticed, while passing close to one large water-hole, a number of Spine-tailed Swifts (*Chætura caudacuta*). They were skimming the surface of the water like Swallows, and we could distinctly see them, every now and then, scoop up the water in the same way that a Swallow drinks. It was a very hot day, probably 110° or 112° in the shade, and it was just noon when we noticed the birds drinking.—F. C. MORSE. Coocalla, Garah (N.S.W.), 10/5/19.

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A Mysterious Songster.—Sitting out of doors one evening early in March, at about 9 p.m., I was startled by a delightful bird-carol, evidently high above our heads. It was a very dark, star-lit sky, and a beautifully mild evening; the bird was apparently right above our heads. Mr. Allingham, as well, has heard the bird singing at night, also high overhead. One night, when riding home from a camp out near the Fletcher River, he heard it at intervals for several miles, and wondered if the bird was following his course or if the notes came from different birds. It is some years since I heard a Skylark singing, but the song reminded me of the Skylark's song, with a Canary trill in addition. I shall be glad to know if any of our members know anything of this fairy music-giver.—MRS. A. BLACK. Pajingo Station, *via* Charters Towers (Q.)

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The Unidentified Petroica.—In the April issue Mr. H. V. Edwards writes of "An Unidentified *Petroica* (Australian Robin)," and adds—"They (the Petroicas) do not breed in immature plumage." His description exactly fits the female and im-



Black, Adam. 1919. "A Mysterious Songster." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 19(1), 68–68.

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