

Various Strays.—Mr. H. L. White sends a clipping from the *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney), dated 17/5/19, which states that at Mountain Ash, Mongarlowe, Mr. G. Sharpe shot a monster Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaëtus audax*) which measured 7 feet 8 inches from tip to tip of wings, and weighed 12 lbs. It would have been interesting to know the sex of this bird.

Mr. I. W. De Laney the other week reported an unusual suburban sight. In a garden at Elsternwick (5 miles from Melbourne) he noticed a White Hawk (*Astur novæ-hollandiæ*) in a pepper-tree, eating a rat.

Mr. Tom Carter, M.B.O.U., writing from Western Australia, states:—"I have described in the *Bull. B.O.C.* a new subspecies of *Stipiturus* (Emu-Wren) from the Maalock country. Mr. Alexander and myself compared a series of each from Dirk Hartog Island, the South-West Coast, and the new bird. It comes midway between the two first named, and all three birds are quite distinct from each other, according to their several localities."—A. J. CAMPBELL.

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The Blackbird in Tasmania.—It may be of interest to place on record some details of the first nest found in our island of the English Blackbird (*Merula merula*). Although discovered a couple of seasons ago, it has been travelling among the ornithologists, and has only lately reached me, having been brought down from Launceston by Mr. H. C. Thompson. The Blackbird in England usually builds of coarse grasses and rootlets, using mud as a lining only, on which is placed a secondary lining of fine grass-stems. The peculiarity of the Tasmanian structure is that it is practically built of mud, that material forming the foundation, sides, and rim, while on the exterior are stuck strips of gum-bark, small twigs, and bits of dry bracken. Inside the deep cup is placed a thick lining of dry gum-leaves, and on this again the secondary fine grass-stem lining. The mud has set almost like cement, and thus the nest has survived its journeyings wonderfully well. The dimensions are:—Outside diameter at rim, 6 inches by 5 inches; inside diameter at rim, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; total depth outside, 5 inches; depth egg-cavity, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The nest was found in the vicinity of Russell's Plains, a few miles from Launceston, by Mr. F. Claridge, and when visited on 4th December, 1916, contained four eggs, which were quite warm, but Messrs. Thompson and Claridge could not obtain a sight of the bird. Since then, however, a pair of Blackbirds has been seen by the owner of the Queechy estate, near Launceston. The structure was placed about 7 feet from the ground in a fork of prickly wattle (*Acacia verticillata*), the mud of the foundation projecting between the branches of the fork.—H. STUART DOVE, F.Z.S. West Devonport (Tas.), 5/5/19.

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Pelicans in a Thunderstorm.—During the afternoon of 28th February, 1919, this district was visited by a terrific thunder-



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