

in another instance a pair of these Hawks, though they made continuous endeavours to rob a Great White Egret, feeding in a mud-pool, of its prey (eel fry, chiefly), never attempted to injure it. The Egret, not in the least alarmed, effectually kept the bandits off with vigorous thrusts from its sharp beak.—H. V. EDWARDS. Bega, N.S.W.

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Some Vagaries of a Southern Stone-Curlew.—During a visit to "The Homestead," Goorambat, Victoria, in 1918, I was interested in seeing a tame Southern Stone-Curlew (*Edicnemus grallarius*) standing in daylight pose close to one of the wheels of a motor-cycle upon the verandah. Drawing the attention of Lieut. Hall, a scion of this pioneer family, he informed me that ever since his sister reared this bird it took a fancy to the motor-cycle. No matter where the cycle was placed, this bird always slept during the daytime close to one of the wheels. Lieut. Hall having occasion to visit adjacent towns upon military duties at night-time, this bird would accompany him and return with the cycle, flying close to the motor the whole journey. During a visit to Goorambat township one evening the bird failed to return home with the cycle. A few days later, Lieut. Hall, being informed by Mr. Mitchell, storekeeper of this town, that the bird was in his garden along with a tame Stone-Plover he had, the sight of the cycle failed to entice this bird home again, and up to the time of writing it enjoys the company of one of its own kind.—C. F. COLE. Wangaratta (Vic.), 5/6/1920.

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Spring Birds in Tasmania.—Spring in Southern Tasmania opened definitely early this year. It is usual for her to make a slender show, several feints, and dawdle for months—at least two. The birds do their best to impress the season, but low and many changes of temperature are common. This 15th June was the end of a mild winter. A Spotted Diamond-Bird (*Pardalotus punctatus*) flew to the edge of the cultivated ground on that date, followed a few days later by the Dusky Fantail (*Rhipidura diemenensis*). Early in July the Fire-tailed Finches (*Zonæginthus bellus*) had returned to their several gullies and to definite parts of them. The Yellow-throated Honey-eater (*Ptilotis flavigaster*) in the sunshine was filling the air with its hard, strong, single note, which is double on close acquaintance. The silver wattle has come into blossom three weeks before its usual time, and almond bloom was well out in June. Invertebrate life is again just beginning to move and offer itself as food for the birds, which in June must be in other countries or starve. The bush then is silent; now it is relatively full of sounds.—ROBERT HALL. Bellerive, Hobart, 17/7/20.

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Notes from Karooka.—Many nests were noticed during last spring when I was spending a fortnight at Karooka, 25 miles east. This is a splendid place for studying bird-life. I watched a pair



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