

Notes from Prairie, N.Q.—The only observation here is Peewits coming to the garden taps with grasshoppers and grubs and dipping them in the water and beating them soft. Repeatedly they will dip them until soft and apparently broken, and then fly away to the nest across the dry creek. The object is to make them easily swallowable by the young birds. Storm-Birds, or Channelbill Cuckoos, have been numerous around the homestead; so also were the Pallid Cuckoos a few weeks ago. I am disposed to the opinion that they make their habitat adjacent to bush dwellings. Some time ago I found a very fine dead specimen of the Jabiru lying dried near a big stock tank at a windmill in dry country. The brilliant bronze-blue plumage of the head was retained in the dried skin. These birds must at times fly high, otherwise this one could not have seen the tank. I first thought some miscreants had shot the bird, but this was not so. It had simply alighted on the water and could not get out, so was drowned and thrown out. Frequently this happens to smaller birds, and I know one place where it was a morning job to clear dead flying foxes from a tank, until sticks were put in so that the wretched bats could get out.—J. R. CHISHOLM. The Plains, Prairie (N.Q.)

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Northern Range of *Geobasileus reguloides*.—Mr. H. G. Barnard has been good enough to send for the "H. L. White Collection" an example of this species from the Dawson River district, Queensland. In my "Nests and Eggs," i., p. 240, I quote Mr. Charles Barnard as having observed the species nesting in the same district. Mathews, in his "Reference-list" (1912), does not indicate Queensland for the species, but more recently (*Bull. B.O.C.*, xl., p. 106) he describes, under the name *G. r. nesa*, a variety from South Queensland, taken at a R.A.O.U. camp-out, and states that it "differs from *G. r. squamata* (De Vis) in being paler generally, the under surface only tinged with yellow, and the rump only being pale buff." Why does Mr. Mathews not compare his supposed new bird with its true type instead of with a more northern sub-species of which there is a doubt? The Dawson skin (♂), compared with typical *reguloides*, has more yellowish upper tail coverts, and is more yellowish than buff on the under surface, notably breast and abdomen. Iris pale yellow; bill and feet dark brown. If this description agrees with Mr. Mathews's skin, his new name, *nesa*, may be acceptable for the variety. Those members interested in sub-species should read "The Last Phase of Sub-Species," by L. M. Loomis, of San Francisco, in *The Ibis*, October, 1920, pp. 964-966.—A. J. CAMPBELL.

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Australian Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*).—During the last few years I have had splendid opportunities of studying the habits of the Australian Bustard, probably better known as the Wild Turkey. Seeing several notes in *The Emu* lately on this fine

bird, I feel sure it will interest many readers to learn that the bird still frequents, as well as breeds in, southern Victoria. The birds usually arrive here about June, leaving again towards the end of the year, although a few pairs seem to stay on right through the year. The largest number I have seen together was in 1919, when I came across a mob of sixteen; but as a rule* they seem to stay in pairs. I have had the good fortune to notice several nests (if such they may be called), all containing one egg only. One egg I found on a large flat stone; another between two large stones on the top of a stony rise; and two others alongside small tussocks. The nesting months are from August to December. During the season 1920, although I did not notice any eggs, I know of four different young birds having been seen. The young Bustard has some peculiar calls, and on being surprised it utters two quick barks, which sound like the bark of a young dog. Another call is a long-drawn-out, mournful whistle, which can be heard for a considerable distance. A bird which I have mounted (shot many years ago) stands just over three feet high. Unfortunately, there is no record of weight or measurements.—J. K. RUSSELL, R.A.O.U. Barunah Plains, Hesse, Vic.

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The White Honey-Eater.—One of the most interesting finds of the R.A.O.U. in Western Australia was the White or Alfred Honey-eater (*Lacustroica whitei*), also called the Inconspicuous Honey-eater, owing to its small size and dull mousey-grey colour. Resembling an *Acanthiza*, it is little wonder that the bird has rarely been procured. The first specimen—a male—was obtained in 1909 by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock at Lake Way, in the East Murchison district. Mr. North described the bird as a new genus and species—*Lacustroica whitei*, after Mr. H. L. White's son Alfred. A full description appeared in the *Victorian Naturalist*, vol. xxvi., p. 138, and a coloured plate of the bird appeared in *The Emu*, vol. ix.; but this plate is somewhat misleading, as there is a certain amount of yellowish tinge about the upper surface of the birds. This is not in the live bird, there being no "adornment" whatever in its feathers. The species was not included in the list in the last issue of *The Emu* owing to lack of identification until after *The Emu* had gone to press. The bird was shot in low bushes in very dry country, and its habits and actions resemble those of an *Acanthiza*. The taking of the bird near Ajana extends the range of the bird a considerable distance westward on the Murchison, and nearer to the coast-line.—JOHN W. MELLOR. Locksley (S.A.), 27/2/21.

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The Gracemere Bird Reserve.—At the invitation of Mr. R. S. Archer, who has been patron of the Central Queensland Native Birds' Protection Association since its inception, a party of members of the association recently journeyed to Mr. Archer's homestead. After enjoying the hospitality of Mr. Archer and



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