

the bird collapsed from starvation. Similarly, bodies of the Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) are often cast ashore in the same quarter, apparently uninjured. Some birds, in fact, are found alive, but in a stupefied state. I have also (once only) found the bodies of Gannets (*Sula serrator*) and of Albatrosses. The latter were almost buried in the sand, and decaying, but the wide-sweeping pinions still held their feathers. Other avian derelicts included a pair of Blue Mountain Lorikeets, with their bright plumage all bedraggled through tossing in the waves. Perhaps these birds, which feed much in honeysuckles on the coast, were surprised by a sudden storm, in which they perished. Most pathetic, however, was the discovery of a pair of Stints, which lay dead side by side on a coastal bluff, huddled together as though for warmth. — H. V. EDWARDS, R.A.O.U. Bega (N.S.W.)

Economic Section.

BY A. S. LE SOUËF, TARONGA PARK, SYDNEY.

Native Birds Eating the Cattle Tick.—In countries where ticks are endemic certain birds have specialized in feeding on them, notably the Ox-Bird (*Textor*), Cattle-pecker (*Buphaga*), and the Cattle Heron (*Bubulcus*). These birds play an important part in keeping the wild animals in Africa and India free from ticks.

Although there are native ticks in Australia, they are chiefly found on nocturnal animals and reptiles, and no birds could feed upon them, and so it is most interesting to note that since the introduction of the cattle tick into Australia two species, in the *Grallina* (Magpie-Lark) and the Ibis, have found them out and developed the habit of feeding upon them.

The *Grallina* in North-West Australia is now known as "the stock inspector," for dozens of them will congregate round the watering-places of the stock, and as the cattle come in to drink they will carefully examine each beast for ticks—an office which the cattle seem to appreciate. The Ibises, on the other hand, congregate on the camping-places of the cattle, and pick up any ticks that have fallen off the animals, and it is stated that the ticks form the principal food of these birds in the district.

Camera Craft Notes.

The Scrub-Robin (*Drymodes brunneopygius*). — The accompanying photograph is one of a series that I took on a trip to Boinka with Messrs. J. A. Ross, F. E. Howe, R. Archer, and J. J. Scarce. During our stay in this Mallee district we located many pairs of birds, and in the finding of the nests (which all contained a single egg, which is the full clutch) we noticed that each pair of birds seemed to have an allotted area to themselves. We



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