

cation. Necessarily, these have had to be passed by, since vernacular names are unavailable for citation.

"It may be urged that vernacular names are citable as well as scientific names. While this is in one sense true, nevertheless it is impracticable, unless the compiler is willing to double his labour and add unnecessarily to the bulk of his book. In other words, since scientific names *must*, for various paramount reasons, be cited, the addition of vernacular names would but increase the labour of the compiler and still further complicate the topography of the synonymy. . . .

"Personally, I am in favour of the use of vernacular names ; but by all means let us have the scientific names also" (*Condor*, ii., p. 41).

Stray Feathers.

INCUBATION AFTER REMOVAL FROM THE NEST.—During the breeding season of 1903 a nest of the Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*) was found by some friends of mine about 20 miles from Casterton. It contained one egg, and was taken to be sent on to me. The specimen was not blown, and after it had laid in the house for a couple of days a chick within was heard chipping. The egg was kept warm until hatched, and the young replaced in the nest. Soon afterwards the chick was seen, accompanied by its proud mother, swimming about the swamp. Miss Carmichael, who informed me of this, said it was hot weather at the time, but that no special attention was paid to the egg in order to facilitate its incubation.—(DR.) E. A. D'OMBRAIN. Casterton (V.), 18/4/04.

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YELLOW-RUMPED FINCH (*Munia flaviprymna*).—A pair of these bright little birds are in the Melbourne Zoological Gardens, and are just at present busily constructing a bulky dome-shaped nest of grass. The male is of a richer hue than the female ; his breast is pale chestnut, back and wings rich dark chestnut, especially on the shoulders ; his rump is reddish-yellow, and the tail feathers dark chestnut, with the outer edge of a much lighter hue, the two central feathers have a dark centre and light on each side ; all the tail feathers are pointed ; top of head and neck greyish-fawn, the centre of each feather slightly darkened, and only indistinctly discernible ; just over and below the eye a much lighter shade, almost white ; vent white ; bill and legs blue. They are altogether very neat and trim little birds in appearance, and seem fairly hardy. This pair came from North-Western Australia, inland from Cossack.—D. LE SOUËF. 11/3/04.

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SWIFTS AND SWALLOWS.—This autumn has been remarkable for the number of times the Spine-tailed Swift (*Chaetura cauda-*



Le Souef, William Henry Dudley. 1904. "Yellow-rumped finch (*Munia flaviprymna*).*" The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 4(1), 20–20. <https://doi.org/10.1071/mu904020b>.

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