

pale cream-colour in tint, almost hidden in an envelope or cushion of soft drab-grey down. When the sitting bird was absent in quest of food some down was invariably drawn over a small opening in the cushion, so that the eggs might escape the keen eyes of Crows, Hawks, and other avian enemies. But from the keen-scented fox this device would avail nothing.

Although the Sheldrake still occurs on Monaro, the "Mountain Duck" is growing rarer year by year in that quarter. In former years I have counted thirty or more of these regal birds—the burnished green of their wing coverts flashing in the sun—grouped about springs on the wide, black-soil plains of Monaro. The young, I think, are brought early to the ground from the nesting hollows, and thus become an easy prey of foxes. The "Red Duck," Shoveler, Pink-eared Duck and Whistling Tree-Duck never—so far as I am aware—nest on the Monaro highlands. The "Wood Duck" (Maned Goose), though still common, is not so numerous there as in earlier years. Somewhere about the middle eighties of last century I observed these birds in great flocks on damp green levels about Gelantipy Station, North Gippsland, Victoria, one or more birds, after the habit of Geese, when in flocks, standing sentry on elevated ground near the assemblage of silvery-grey birds. The flocks occurred among timber, and at a considerable distance from any permanent water.

That most destructive and perfectly useless animal, the European fox, is playing havoc annually among the young of wild Ducks, preying also on their eggs and upon the adult birds, which latter are often successfully stalked by this cunning marauder. It is high time, in the opinion of the writer, that a price should be set by the Legislatures of the States upon the scalps of foxes, which may be bracketed with the domestic cat gone wild as being the two most destructive agencies to which many of our most useful insectivorous birds are now exposed.

The Garganey Teal (*Querquedula querquedula*).—A pair of these beautiful birds, kindly lent by Mr. Wm. Shaw, was exhibited by me at the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria in March, 1889. The birds were obtained at Lake Connemara, near Geelong. Subsequently I noticed a similar specimen in the National Museum, Melbourne. In recalling the matter recently to the Curator, Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S., he was good enough to show me the specimen which is mounted. It was presented by Mr. Chas. Hooper on 3/10/81, and was obtained at Lake Colac. In connection with the preparation of the Check-list, it is interesting to find that three specimens of this wandering species have been collected in a small State like Victoria, the inference being that others must occur occasionally in various parts of Australia.—A. J. CAMPBELL, H.F.A.O.U., Box Hill, Victoria.



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