

## EXCURSION TO BAYSWATER.

Six members found their way to Bayswater by the 10.20 p.m. train from town on Saturday, 13th October. Of these two devoted their attention to the birds, while botany and entomology claimed the other members of the party.

Crossing the Sassafras Gully road at the gatehouse the party were soon at work in a well-timbered paddock which borders the railway line and runs down to the Dandenong Creek. In one of the trees near here a Great Kingfisher has its nest every year. The birds were noted, but had evidently not commenced laying. A little further on a White-shafted Fantail was noticed busily engaged in laying the foundation of its nest. Pardalotes, Acanthizæ, Sacred Halcyons were also noted here, and along the creek the Sericornis, Mountain Thrushes, and Thickheads were fairly numerous, though very few nests were found. The creek was now followed up as far as a ti-tree swamp, but with indifferent success. Nests were taken of the Superb Warbler and White-throated Thickhead, and several specimens secured for skinning purposes. In the swamp the little Emu Wren was seen, but as it was getting late no time could be devoted to a search for the nest.

The botanists of the party had by this time a fair collection of specimens, but the entomologists complained of indifferent success.

On returning to the station a little before 5 p.m. five other members were found awaiting our return, having arrived by the afternoon train and worked in a different direction. Owing to the limited time at their disposal, they had not much to show for the afternoon's walk, an Emu Wren and Short-billed Honeyeater being the most noteworthy specimens secured. The return to town by the 5 p.m. train concluded a very enjoyable, though not very profitable, outing.—W. MACGILLIVRAY.

## EXCURSION TO SPRINGVALE.

THE weather during the week ending Saturday, 27th October, was very unsettled, which will no doubt account for the small attendance at the excursion to Springvale fixed for that date, but those few who did put in an appearance had the satisfaction of spending a very pleasant afternoon. On arrival of the party by the 1.30 train from Melbourne they were met by the Rev. E. H. Hennell, who elected to proceed in a south-easterly direction from the station. The ground in many places was swampy from the recent rains, but these objectionable spots were easily avoided. From the large quantity of *Leptospermum scoparium* and Ti-tree, *Melaleuca squarrosa*, which was in flower, it was fully expected good results, especially in Coleoptera, would be obtained, but unfortunately, although both were most carefully



examined, the party were doomed to disappointment. Not a Longicorn was seen, and of Buprestidæ the only three noted were *Stigmodera macularia*, *S. octosignata*, and *S. octospilota*, and of these the first was the more numerous, about a dozen being taken. On the gum saplings were a few of a very common species of Curculio, and a limited number of a few varieties of Chrysomelidæ, of the genus Paropsis. For Hymenoptera the result was a complete blank, and the same might also be said of Lepidoptera, for of butterflies not more than six were seen, five of these being *Pyrameis Kershawii* and the other *P. itea*. A few small moths were taken, as were also some lepidopterous larvæ, but the names we are unable to supply. A fortnight later much better success would attend an excursion to Springvale, which has always been noted as a first-class collecting locality; and for next year we trust this suggestion will be acted upon; or, better still, arrange for a special excursion so soon as Mr. Hennell may advise the time to be opportune, which we feel sure he will be only too pleased to do. Orchids were also very scarce, only a few varieties being noted, amongst them being *Diuris longifolia*, *D. maculata*, and *Thelymitra aristata*.—D. BEST.

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#### EXCURSION TO TARRAWARRA.

THE Club was fairly represented at the excursion to Tarrawarra, on the Healesville line, on Cup Day, 6th November, 1894. The party was favoured with splendid weather, and spent a most enjoyable day. We struck out in a northerly direction for the hills. The two geologists, however, decided to work in a different direction, meeting again in the evening. Just over the hill an Australian Pipit, *Anthus australis*, flew off its nest in a tuft of grass. The nest contained three eggs, but was left undisturbed, our photographer marking it for future operations. A little further along the boy was sent up a sapling after a White-throated Thickhead's nest, on which the male bird was sitting. The nest was found to contain young. All this time our entomologists were busy shaking trees and stripping bark, and, although rather early in the season, a few prizes rewarded their efforts, including the beetles *Trypocharia*, sp., *T. hamata*, and a few Buprestidæ, also several larvæ and pupæ of Hesperidæ.

It was after noon when we arrived at the Maroondah aqueduct, when a halt was called for lunch. Shortly after starting again diversity was lent to the proceedings by the appearance of a large Tiger Snake, which, however, was soon despatched, and the head bagged. We soon reached the Steel's Creek valley, but as the timber was too stunted for good collecting we retraced our steps. The nest of a Yellow-backed Geobasileus was taken, in the hope that it might contain a cuckoo's egg, which proved to be the case.



Best, D. 1894. "Excursion to Springvale (Saturday, 27th October [1894]) [summary report]." *The Victorian Naturalist* 11, 123–124.

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