

I use this opportunity to include in the "Key," area 5, the following species :—29, 67, 183, 235, 265, 392, 463—to be marked as resident or visiting birds I do not know. Evidently I quite overlooked including 265, as recorded in Colonel Legge's list.

The following may be marked as having been observed in areas 2, 3, 4, 6, while further additions will be noted in Mr. North's work, now in the press. Certain of these records were the observations of Mr. S. W. Jackson, communicated to me, the bulk of the remainder having already appeared in *The Emu*. There still remain other records to be collected.

Species.		Areas.	Species.		Areas.	Species.		Areas.
51	...	2	286	...	6	463	...	4
52	...	3	296	...	2	487	...	6
65	...	3	307	...	6	525	...	6
102	...	4	348	...	4	527	...	4
113	...	3	353	...	6	597	...	6
117	...	6	354	...	6	616	...	6
156	...	3	358	...	3	644	...	6
160	...	6	365	...	6	651	...	6
186	...	6	375	...	3	754	...	6
205	...	6	412	...	6			

Certain of the birds, under varying climatic conditions, change for a time their stations, and in the droughty spring of this year we have much evidence of it. The eruption of species from the dry areas into the coastal areas may well be recorded, but for irregular rather than permanent residence.—ROBERT HALL. 10/10/07.

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QUEER NESTING PLACES.—Three weeks ago, while driving into the outskirts of Stawell, a town of 6,000 inhabitants, a little Black-fronted Dottrel (*Ægialitis nigrifrons*) was seen to rise from some pebbles and run off. A clutch of three eggs was found placed on the hard stones not 2 feet away from the wheel track, where scores of vehicles passed daily. In fact, the rubble had been put by roadmenders into a rut, but passing drivers, as is often the case, avoided it. Whether the daring little bird will successfully rear a family in such surroundings is hard to say. A much more suitable nesting place could be found along the margin of a small lake in the public gardens not many yards away. The same day, while visiting a farmhouse, I was surprised to hear a Brown Tree-creeper (*Climacteris scandens*) scramble up the hessian lining of a room and out through a hole in the outside wall. It had a nest in the bottom corner containing several young ones.—A. G. CAMPBELL. Pomonal, near Stawell, 12/12/07.

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SCONE (N.S.W.) NOTES.—On the 9th October I took three slightly incubated eggs of the Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus destructor*) from a nest in a small yellow box tree, 20 feet from ground;

on the 14th November I noticed a pair of fresh eggs of the Bronze-wing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera*) in the same nest. On the 10th October I took one fresh egg of the Goshawk (*Astur approximans*); on the 15th November I took one heavily incubated egg and one addled egg of same bird from the same nest. The White-browed (*Artamus superciliosus*) and Masked (*Artamus personatus*) Wood-Swallows are now visiting us in thousands, and placing their nests in all sorts of curious places. The Dollar-Bird (*Eurystomus australis*), usually very plentiful here in summer, is very scarce this season; I know of one pair only in the vicinity. Friar-Birds or Leatherheads (*Philemon corniculatus*) are breeding very freely; the same applies to the Pied Crow-Shrike (*Strepera graculina*). I never knew *Ephthianura albifrons* so plentiful before; they have been breeding since June. I saw one full clutch of four eggs. I have seen one only *Scythrops novæ-hollandiæ* this season; this bird is usually plentiful here. On the 18th September, at Belltrees, found an egg of the Black-eared Cuckoo (*Misocalius palliolatus*) in the nest of the Little Field-Wren (*Chthonicola sagittata*) along with a pair of eggs of the last-named bird.—H. L. WHITE. 17/11/07.

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LAUNCESTON (TASMANIA) NOTES.—While returning from a long ramble down the banks of the Tamar, at the end of October, I was fortunate enough to come upon a small party of five Sandpipers or Sharp-tailed Stints (*Heteropygia acuminata*), feeding quietly upon a little mud-bank at the edge of a swamp. They were by no means wild, and allowed me to approach within a few yards before taking wing with their plaintive cry. This was within a mile of Launceston Post-Office, which is unusually close to town for these long-distance migrants to appear. The same afternoon I heard great numbers of Grass-Birds (*Megalurus gramineus*) uttering their weird little calls, and saw one or two. This interesting little bird, although shy in the sense of keeping itself out of sight, yet does not at all object to the proximity of human beings, so long as there is cover for concealment. One is calling frequently in a thin patch of reeds close to the Tamar ferry, just opposite the wharf, and with people passing to and fro within a few yards; there are dozens in the reeds alongside a footpath which caps the embankment. I have frequently brought them up almost to my feet by imitating their call, and then have not been able to see them, owing to the thick growth of reeds. The call is usually a plaintive double whistle, but some individuals use three or even four notes instead of the usual two.

The Reed-Warblers (*Acrocephalus australis*) were much in evidence that same day, flying excitedly from the dense growth of the riverside into the wattle trees, then chasing each other



White, Henry Luke. 1908. "Scone (N.S.W.) Notes." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 7(3), 157–158.

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