

Whistling Shrike-Thrush at Window.

FROM A PHOTO. BY (MISS) J. A. FLETCHER.

along her arm, and flying down to take butter from her plate. The female is the tamer of the two birds, and will take food from the hand. Food is generally placed on the window-sill, and it is a pretty sight to see a Thrush perched there eating while we are at the table.—(MISS) J. A. FLETCHER. Springfield (Tas.), 18/8/15.

**Plain-Wanderer in Captivity.**—The Plain-Wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) is now very rare, and is seldom seen in the field by the ornithologist. A friend of mine, who spends almost every spare hour in the field with his dogs, brought me in a female bird, which he had caught while it was being set by a dog. The bird made no attempt to fly, and allowed my friend to pick it up from the ground. Early next morning I arranged to photograph the Plain-Wanderer, and I placed it in a box which had a wire-netting front. Having made an opening in the side of the box for the camera lens to fit, I started to get the focus, for the bird would not stand quiet a second: it insisted on running, with head erect, round and round the box. After waiting for a while, I



secured six snapshots. It is most interesting to note that, in each picture, the bird is standing on its toes. Of course, it would be impossible to secure a photograph of this bird in a standing position in the field.

Early in August this year fresh footprints of the Plain-Wanderer were seen. They had been made in crossing a marshy swamp



Plain-Wanderer.

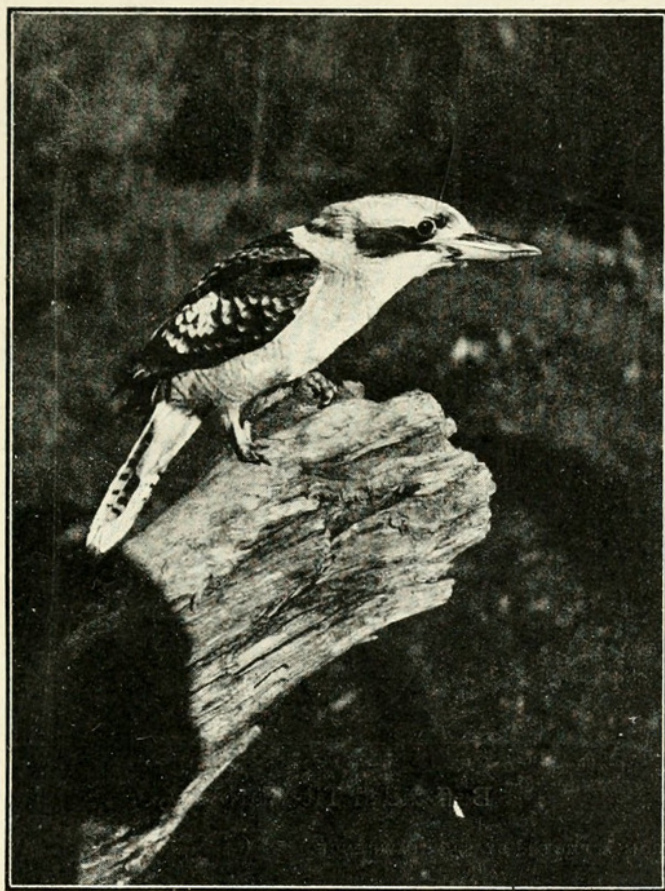
FROM A PHOTO. BY H. A. PURNELL.

in the midst of country suitable as a haunt of the birds. Plain-Wanderers were at one time very plentiful around the Geelong district, but, on account of extensive cultivation, their natural feeding-grounds are fast disappearing. Last summer a dead bird (fresh) was found early one morning beside the pavilion of the football reserve, which is at the rear of the Botanical Gardens. It appeared to me that the bird had flown against the high wall during the night, and so met its death. The late K. H. Bennett



said that the Plain-Wanderer was nocturnal in its habits. This may be a fact, for I noticed that while I kept a bird in captivity it never seemed to sleep or rest. Whenever I looked into its enclosure at any time in the night the bird was always wide awake and running round. Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, who was staying with me at the time, was very interested in these habits.—H. A. PURNELL. Geelong (Vic.), 7/9/15.

**Trustful Subjects.**—It is remarkable how quickly most birds become accustomed to anything unusual in their surroundings. Particularly is this noticeable when one wishes to obtain photographs. If sufficient time is available, almost any bird will eventually lose its fear of camera and operators.



Great Brown Kingfisher.

FROM A PHOTO, BY R. T. LITTLEJOHNS.

Unusual trustfulness is shown by four Great Brown Kingfishers (*Dacelo gigas*), which depend largely for their food supply on the hospitality of some of the residents of Upper Ferntree Gully, Victoria. Very soon after our arrival at a week-end house there, the birds put in an appearance on the doorstep and accepted food



Purnell, Herbert A. 1915. "Plain-Wanderer in Captivity." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 15(2), 141–143.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/mu915140c>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/35754>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1071/mu915140c>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/380184>

**Holding Institution**

American Museum of Natural History Library

**Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: NOT\_IN\_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.