

which subsequently moved on to cause major destruction in Fiji—arose in the Solomons area ("Pacific Islands Monthly," 22, (7), 15). It could not, therefore, have been responsible for a dispersal of Australian and New Guinea birds into the Pacific. The moderate tropical depression discussed herein affords a likely explanation of this dispersal, the pelicans concerned being carried by upper winds. As to the climbing capacities of *P. conspicillatus*, Dr. R. A. Falla (p.c. 1954) informs me that "over the warm dry areas near Mildura, in October, 1951, I watched pelican flocks gaining altitude until they passed out of range of 8x binoculars, and this I would judge to be at over 4,000 feet."

#### REFERENCES.

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Falla, R. A., 1954.—Personal communication, March 10.  
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**BIRDS SINGING AT NIGHT.**—Reading the report of J. M. Cunningham in the April issue of *Notornis* (5 (8) : 252) has brought to mind an experience I had four or five years ago, which was very similar to that of Mr. Trim at Palmerston North. I believe I wrote down the details at the time but in any case I cannot find them now. It is clear enough in my memory, however, to recount the following particulars, all of which are remarkably similar to the report mentioned above: In the farm country near Palmerston (Otago) one night late in summer I went out-of-doors at 10.30 p.m. and heard a chorus of blackbirds, and I believe, thrushes, filling the air with full song. Mostly the song came from the pine and macrocarpa trees round the homestead, but I can recall other individuals being closer at hand in the garden shrubs or trees. The night was very warm and still and bright with a full moon. I went to the barometer seeking an explanation in the barometric pressure, and though it is beyond me to remember the reading, I recall that it was not abnormally high nor abnormally low. My only suggestion is that the mildness and brightness of the night was responsible for this unusual nocturnal exuberance.—B. A. Ellis, Dunedin.

Mrs W. H. Rolston, Levin, writes: "I was most interested in the article 'Birds Singing at Night' which appeared in the April issue of *Notornis*. I am writing this as I and my daughter had a similar experience in the same month of August, 1953. Our farm, in Lindsay Road, Levin, is three miles from the Levin Post Office. On the night in question, just before midnight, we became aware that the blackbirds were singing their spring song at the top of their voices in the trees around the house and orchard. My daughter and I listened to them for quite half an hour or more, and they were still singing when we went back to bed at about 12.30 a.m. My daughter went home on August 30, and the singing took place a few nights before she left. It was a bright, clear moonlight night and could possibly have been the same night as that on which your correspondent, Mr. Trim, heard them at Palmerston North. This is the only time that I have ever heard blackbirds singing at night. No thrushes or other birds entered into the singing, although there are plenty of them here."

**SHINING CUCKOO ARRIVAL DATES.**—Mr. J. M. Cunningham, 39 Renall Street, Masterton, who is collecting data on the arrival dates of the shining cuckoo in New Zealand, states that some letters on this subject forwarded to him in England have gone astray. He asks members who have not received an acknowledgment to send him a further copy of their letters. This refers to 1953 records only.