

Stubble-Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*) Alighting on the Sea.

By Mr. E. S. Rymill, East Terrace, Adelaide, 23/4/1930.

The following incident may be of interest to ornithologists and others who follow the habits of birds:—In October, 1927, when on a yachting cruise in St. Vincent's Gulf, S.A., we anchored overnight at a point about 12 miles north of the Port Adelaide River entrance, on the eastern side of the Gulf, about a mile and a half from the shore. During the night a very strong south-easterly wind set in, blowing off-shore towards the yacht, and was still blowing hard at 8 a.m. Going on deck at this time,

the writer noticed a Quail of the stubble variety sitting in one of the yacht's dinghies which was hanging from the davits. Later, when the boat was being lowered into the water, the Quail flew out, and circled round the yacht several times, and then alighted on the water about 20 yards away. It rode the waves, which were short and steep at the time, very easily, and floated buoyantly on the water. It then lifted easily from the surface just as a Duck would rise, and flew round to the other side of the yacht, settling again on the water in a similar manner. After a few moments it rose once more, and flew in a straight line shorewards, disappearing from sight in the distance. During the time the bird was sitting in the boat it allowed us to make a close inspection, and had evidently rested there for some time before being observed. It would be interesting to learn whether there are other known cases of Quail alighting on the ocean.*

* We can find no previous record of Quail alighting on the sea.—
Editors.