The clutch in good seasons is mostly three, but in poor years two is the usual setting. On 21st April, 1919, we had a nice rain, which continued on to 22nd April, thus breaking a drought since June, 1918. On 25th April (three days after rain) I was fortunate to find a pair of Chats, their habits leading me to hunt for a nest. I found a round hole scooped out just alongside a small, dry annual salt-bush, depth about 3 inches. Thinking this a start of a nest, I had a look at the spot the following day and found a partly-built nest—some twigs and pieces of wool—but in no way rounded out. I did not think of touching the nest, for I knew from experience that the bird would desert, which I think strange, for they are very trusting birds, and not easily frightened. On the morning of 28th April I again passed the nest, and found it rounded out and like a nest, with a start of lining going on; it appeared to be fine rootlets. I noted both birds carrying, and each, on arrival, built the nest. On 30th April I found the nest completed, but was unable to find birds. On 1st May I again failed to locate birds, and feared they were frightened by my close watch; I had often been within two or three yards whilst they were building. On 2nd May I had another look, and was delighted to see the bird (female) leave the nest quietly when I was about 6 yards away. I found one egg. On 3rd May I again called in at nest, and found two eggs, the bird leaving quietly at my approach. The next day we had three-quarters of an inch of rain, and I was not able to visit the nest; but on the 5th May, at 5 p.m., I visited the nest, and when about 5 yards away the female fluttered off the nest, pretending lameness and flattening itself to the ground within 3 feet of me. I took clutch—two eggs, none having been laid since 8 a.m. on 3rd May. I have noticed previously that the Desert Chat does not pretend lameness unless she is sitting; until a full clutch is laid she only hops out of the nest and stands a few yards away.

The nest and eggs I am sending to the R.A.O.U. collection. The nest is frail; it is composed chiefly of wool at bottom of hole. Lining is of small rootlets or twigs, evidently to keep eggs off the damp wool, which, in event of rain, would absorb the moisture.

Nest situated on open plains, in ground of open, clayey nature. The nest on one side shows a sort of platform; this is on the far side from bush. Rim of nest fully ½-inch above ground.

Quail.—While cutting his hay with a reaper and binder on his farm at Lardner, our neighbour, Mr. W. B. Hardie, noticed a Quail on the platform canvas above the knife. Later on in the day the man who was stooking the sheaves found a Quail bound to the sheaf with the string around its neck. Upon being released, it flew away, apparently none the worse. Farmers like to see Quail in this district, realizing they are not destructive, and possibly are useful, consequently they find sanctuary on the farms.—C. C. CURRIE. Lardner, Gippsland.