

On October 13 I visited the site on horseback. The duck was sitting very close, allowing approach to within twelve yards of the nest. I did not stop my horse, but, riding in a circle, was able to observe clearly the brooding bird on the nest with its head extended low over the edge of the down surrounding the eggs. My shepherd's boys passing the nest at frequent intervals, declare that there are two different birds sitting on this nest, one having "more white on it than the other." This would seem to indicate that the male is assisting in the brooding.

On October 22 it was ascertained that 5 out of the 10 eggs had proved fertile—the broken shells of that number being observed in the nest, with the remaining 5 eggs left. It is quite likely that the eggs which had been hatched were laid after the fire passed over the nest, but from the appearance of the clutch when first found it appeared that it had been incubated for some time, and again sufficient time had hardly elapsed for this surmise to be correct, although the nest was first discovered on September 24. From that date to October 22 the time elapsed is just four weeks.—ROBT. LEGGE, Cullenswood, Tasmania.

Flame Robin's Nesting Site.—Robins often choose strange nesting sites, an instance of this habit having come under my notice here at Cullenswood recently (14/10/'30). Close to the orchard and kitchen-garden there is a small square shed in which are kept tools, fertilizers, etc. It is kept locked when not in use, but a pair of Flame Robins (*Petroica phœnicea*) found a way to enter it by a vacant pane in the 4-light window-sash facing the east. Hanging from one of the rafters there is an old landing net which has been used for drying and storing "shallots," of which there are the remains of some old bulbs filling the purse of the net. The Robins built their nest on top of the dried bulbs, and in spite of the daily usage of the shed by the gardener, have brought out three young birds. I did not know of the existence of the net until the date mentioned above, when the man pointed it out to me. My son took a photograph, which, owing to the dark interior and the position of the nest-site, was not an easy matter. Whilst the camera was being placed in position for the exposure, the female watched the proceedings from the window, and after the camera-stand, a step-ladder, was removed, she returned to the nest, and remained sitting whilst I went in and out of the shed, passing within a foot of her repeatedly.—ROBT. W. LEGGE, R.A.O.U., Cullenswood, Tasmania.