

The young left the nest a couple of days later. Both the adults were rather good subjects for photography, although in their movements, they could be decidedly quick when they felt inclined. On account of his red breast the male is also difficult to photograph successfully without the use of panchromatic plates. We again found this pair nesting on November 1, 1930, the new nest containing eggs but recently laid. One young was reared and left the nest on November 29 or 30. What became of the other two eggs or young we do not know. The dates given concerning this pair are almost the earliest, and were, until recently, the latest, at which we have found the species breeding. However, on December 27, 1930, we found a nest containing fresh eggs, situated in a scar in a stone and a little below a "staghorn" fern. The young left the nest on January 27, 1931—almost two months later than we had previously found the species breeding. The nest was a very prettily-situated one, although, partly on account of its facing the south, it did not lend itself readily to photography.

Male Flame-breasts appear to acquire their brilliant plumage early in the year, and not in the springtime as one might imagine. We noticed one changing his colours in January, 1930, and again another one in January this year (1931). Or is it probable that the males, while still young, return to their sombre plumage after the nesting season is over?—A. J. ELLIOTT, R.A.O.U., and A. O. ELLIOTT, Cambewarra, N.S.W.

Variation of *Barnardius barnardi*.—Recently when visiting the aviaries of the Marquis of Tavistock in company with Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, my attention was drawn to a living specimen (the type) of *Barnardius cromolini*, named by Mr. Mathews. After having expressed my belief that the new species was but a colour variation of *Barnardius barnardi*, and that I had a similar variation in my own aviary, Mr. Mathews and Lord Tavistock requested me to write a note to *The Emu*, stating the fact.

Upon my return to Australia, I again examined my bird and find it to be a replica of the *B. cromolini* of Mathews. The bird is still living and is now in excellent feather. The breast is entirely green without any yellow band. Formerly there was no indication of yellow at all but since its recent moult there is just the faintest suggestion of a tinge of very pale yellow on a couple of feathers. I am therefore still of the opinion expressed in London that Mathews' *B. cromolini* is but a variation of *Barnardius barnardi*.—CLIF. COLES, R.A.O.U., Sydney, N.S.W.