

appeared to be fully developed, the nestlings, when captured, had a liberal quantity of long white down projecting about an inch beyond the feathers of the head, nape, back and underparts.

The calls of the young were very loud, wheezing and sustained, but were difficult to imitate and still more difficult to interpret into writing. The best I can do is "t'sh-sh-sh" emitted with plenty of vigour, the "t" being intended to represent the peculiar manner in which the call was "jerked" or "thrown" from the throat. More recently, however, I have sometimes thought that a drawn-out and a wheezing "Kee-eek," uttered in the manner described, was a better interpretation.

The nesting tree was a dry one standing in an open paddock and was little more than one hundred yards from my home—the accompanying photograph was taken from within a few yards of the back door.

The fact that this pair of Masked Owls nested in the depth of winter should go to prove that the breeding season of the species is not confined to the warmer months of the year.

**Bower of the Regent Bower-bird.**—During the visit of the Sydney University Rover Scouts expedition in August to the Myall Lakes, nearly forty species of birds were listed, but the most interesting discovery was the bower of the Regent Bower-bird. When the bower was found two fully-plumaged males were seen, and four days previously a female or immature male had been observed where the bower was later discovered. One of the males was heard while it was in the bower, but, owing to the obscuring palm leaves, its actions could not be noted.

The bower was built near the foot of a low-growing cabbage-tree palm, the leaves of which completely hid it from sight. It was simple in construction and the earth surrounding it was cleared of leaves, having the appearance of being swept. The most striking feature of the bower was its close resemblance to a nest. The walls were constructed of sticks set upright in the ground and curved so as to form a kind of arch. Its width was greater than its length, as may be seen from the photograph and the following measurements:—Height, 10 inches; length, 7 inches at base; external width, 9 inches; internal width, 4½ inches.

Around the inside edge of the walls of the bower was a circular lining of grass stalks or some similar material about three-quarters of an inch wide, leaving at the centre a circular bare piece of ground about three inches in diameter. The presence of two palm seeds and a single snail shell added to the nest-like appearance. Two more shells of the same kind of snail (*Meridolum jervisensis*) were lying at the edge of the cleared space surrounding the bower.—K. F. PLOMLEY, Pott's Point, N.S.W., 10/9/34.