

flowering vegetation which reaches to the knees. They are a favourite haunt of the Emu-Wren and I found no less than eight nests during a prolonged search for the nest of the Ground Parrot.

"The Bristle-birds were often in the nearest patch, but I found them rather silent during nesting operations and it was usually early in the morning, or towards sunset, that the male uttered his quick call of 'chip-pee-tee-pee-tee-pet.' I never heard the female utter more than the metallic note 'tink' already referred to. I searched carefully every small *Banksia* tree within a hundred yards. I found one nest out of which a small mouse darted, but it was evidently an old one. At length, nearly on the ground, in a matted clump of wiry grass, I found a nest containing one egg. On examination I soon found it was an infertile one. I was too late. The yolk had set on the side and the albumen hardened up. A second egg had, no doubt, hatched, and the resultant young bird had left the nest. The egg was like that of the Eastern Bristle-bird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*) as was to be expected, *Dasyornis longirostris* being a geographical race. Unfortunately, after prolonged attempts to blow the egg, it collapsed and was ruined.

"In the ensuing season history repeated itself as another fire swept the flats and this time the favourite haunt only partially escaped destruction. After very close observation I was forced to the conclusion that the male bird which I had occasionally heard calling had no mate and he, too, finally disappeared.

"Some years later a Denmark neighbour told me he was driving through black-boy country some miles to the east of Albany when he heard a shrill whistle and, thinking someone was trying to attract his attention, he pulled up, only to find that the sound proceeded from low scrub nearby. From his description of the notes I am convinced they were the calls of the Bristle-bird."

Migration of Cuckoos.—On July 6, 1935, I noticed a female Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) on the telegraph wires in front of my home, receiving very ardent and unwelcome attentions from a Willie-Wagtail and two Sparrows. Being under the impression that Pallid Cuckoos should not be seen in Sydney in July, I mentioned my observation to Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, who expressed the belief that Cuckoos are not dependable migrants and that many remain through the winter and are silent. Mr. Tom Iredale expressed a similar view at a recent meeting of the Field Naturalists' Club, adding that erroneous conceptions of the movements of Cuckoos in Australia had been based on the migratory habits of the European Cuckoo.—N. L. ROBERTS, Sydney, N.S.W.