

indifference during mild days. The nest contained eggs during February 1945, during which month the weather was extremely mild. On most days the birds would not visit the nest for more than a few seconds at a time, unless they had been deceived into a belief that the photographer had left the locality entirely. The presence of the camera did not appear to cause any anxiety. If the photographer, however, retired directly to his hiding place, over a retaining bank and out of sight, the birds were not convinced and would spend hours watching the nest from a little distance, only very occasionally visiting it to lift and replace the weeds with which the eggs were covered, and then to depart. When, however, the writer walked away in full view for a considerable distance and afterwards crept back on all fours to a prepared hiding place, the birds were reassured and resumed normal sitting without delay.

On the one cold day during which the nest was under observation, the conduct of the birds was changed entirely and the reasonably close presence of the photographer was disregarded. Similarly, on one very hot day the birds maintained a close interest in the welfare of the eggs. On this occasion, however, they did not sit, but visited the nest often to fuss with the weeds which covered the eggs and on one occasion to stand vibrating the wings rapidly, obviously with the idea of ensuring proper ventilation in order to keep the eggs cool.

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**Black Cockatoos with Red Crests.**—The following paragraph occurs in Mrs. Felton Mathew's Journal, in the *Royal Historical Society Journal and Proceedings* (XXIX, II, p. 107,) under the date May 11, 1833. The locality is the Macdonald River, a tributary of the Hawkesbury:

—we startled a number of black Cockatoos perched in some Oaks overhanging the water, one we shot, and the others hovered round a long time making the most hideous screaming, but too wary to venture within shot; they are very handsome particularly in flight, as they then extend the feathers of the tail, displaying the scarlet bars, which form a lively contrast to the rest of their plumage, a dusky black; some few have a scarlet crest too, resembling the yellow crest of the White Cockatoo, but these are rare.

The above is of considerable interest, especially in view of the statement by the ranger in charge of Flinders Chase, the reserve at the western end of Kangaroo Island, that he had secured, a few years ago, a black cockatoo with a *red crest* which had been caught in a falling tree, and had placed it in a cage. From this, with the aid of its mate, it managed to escape. The ranger and the members of his family stoutly maintain that it had a red crest.—J. B. CLELAND, Adelaide, S.A., 30/7/45.

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