

of the second female, and ultimately, after losing her many times, she was traced right from the male on the ironbark branch to the second nest, probably a mile away. Whether this is usual or not, it is impossible to say, but for weeks after both females continued to meet the male each morning, and no other male was observed. The first nest was considered as being lined when discovered on the 2nd November. On the 8th I found the bird sitting; and on the following day, seeing her feeding, posted myself beneath the nest. She returned shortly afterwards, feeding from tree to tree as usual, passed through the nesting tree as if of no interest to her, and worked up the hillside. Presently, however, she returned and swept through the trees in one great curve and right to the nest. I watched her settle down, and left her, half an hour later, still on. For an extra margin of safety I waited another four days, and on the 13th climbed up. It was not an easy climb, as the mistletoe could not be reached from the nesting-tree itself, which had to be roped and pulled close to a second tree higher up the hillside, and as the topmost branches of this would not stand the strain, it, in turn, had to be braced to a third, then a "tunnel" had to be cut through to the heart of the mistletoe in order to get a mirror above the nest, which proved, after all, to be full of dead leaves. It was climbed again on the 26th, but was quite ragged and untidy, and obviously deserted. After measuring the height with a fishing line, the mistletoe was torn off with a rope in an attempt to get the nest. It measured 114 feet 6 inches from the ground, and the fall of the mass from this height so shattered the nest that only a few pieces of a round-leaved vine (still green) and two pieces of cast snake-skin remained.

The second nest was found on the 11th November, and the tree was not climbed till the 5th December. Although still higher (it measured 128 feet 9 inches), it was a fairly easy climb, and, as the female was in the tree, great hopes were entertained. It proved, however, to be beautifully lined, but otherwise empty. As the bird remained about and the nest had not been disturbed in any way, it was climbed again on the 16th December, but with no better result, and, from its ragged appearance, the bird had evidently forsaken it. As this climb had been left to the last possible moment, and the camp had been already broken up, there was no further opportunity of observing this most interesting species. The experience, however, throws fresh light on their breeding habits, and will doubtless be of value to future observers.

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**Cormorants in Tasmania.**—This summer Tasmania has been visited by thousands of Black Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). They may be seen upon every sheet of water of any size in the island, and one competent observer informs me that he saw one flock on the Derwent consisting of at least 10,000 birds. There can be no doubt but they are depleting the fish in the inland waters to a very large extent, and the Fisheries Commissioners have spent all their available cash in paying a royalty for all heads forwarded. In spite of this destruction their numbers do not seem decreased in the slightest extent.—CLIVE E. LORD, Hobart, 4/3/19.