

Stone Colour.

Female Bush-Hawk greyish legs and cere.
Male Quail-Hawk legs and feet stone drab. Round eye greenish yellow.
Live Quail-Hawk (1926 four months old) cere and round eyes stone colour. Cere appearing bluer than legs.

NESTING SITE.

Guthrie Smith, speaking of the Bush-Hawk, or small type, which he calls the "Falcon," says that the sites used by these birds for breeding purposes are varied—at the base of conglomerate cliffs, on limestone ledges, or in wind-blown pumice scoops on the ranges. Potts, in a paper read before the Wellington Philosophical Society, says of the larger type, or Quail Hawk: "Amongst bold rocks on the mountain side, somewhat sheltered by a projecting, overhanging mass, appears to be its favourite site for rearing its young." Buller, describing the nest of the Bush-Hawk, states that this bird nests in a bunch of puwharawhara, often at great height from the ground. Another nest he describes as being in the fork of a tall kahikatea tree. More often, however, he states, its nest is laid on the ground—he mentions one built on the side of a hill below Ruapehu, under cover of a block of trachyte. Mr. R. Gibbs describes the nest of a little Bush-Hawk under a leaning kamahi tree.

Thus, it will be seen that Guthrie Smith's small bird was making a similar nest to that of the large type of Hawk described by Potts. All that can safely be assumed from this is that probably the usual nesting-site for these Hawks, both large and small, is on the ground, but that when a suitable spot cannot be found, these birds accommodate themselves to their surroundings and build in trees after the manner of the Kestrel and Sparrow-Hawk.

THE NEST.

Potts, speaking of the Quail-Hawk, says: "The efforts of this bird in the way of nest-building are of the feeblest description." Buller states of the Bush-Hawk: "There had been no attempt to form a proper nest, but the ground was covered with feathers of birds, on which the Hawks had fed, almost all of Ground Larks."

Guthrie Smith corroborates this when stating that the New Zealand Pipit seemed to be the species most often taken, though he states that the nesting material of the Bush-Hawk varied, being sometimes merely ferruginous pebbles below a cliff, trodden-down fern fronds and grasses, or when built on the wind-swept pumice ranges, merely grit.

Nesting of Jacky Winters.—The gentle and friendly Jacky Winter or Brown Flycatcher (*Microeca fascians*), a well-known visitor to the vegetable and flower gardens about Sydney, does not, as a rule, make its tiny shallow nest near the ground. Indeed, where the trees are tall the nest is generally placed so high in a lofty eucalypt that it cannot be located unless the bird is seen flying to or from the nest or sitting on it. For the past two seasons, however, a pair of birds at Wahroonga have made their nest in a rose bush at a height of about 3 feet from the ground. The rose plant, an old one with main stems thick and barked, provided suitable forks for holding the little concave nest.—H. WOLSTENHOLME, Wahroonga, Sydney (7/3/27).