

again a witness of his ineffectual efforts to jettison one of his nest mates. Two days later the nest had one occupant—the Cuckoo.

We once found an egg of the Narrow-billed or Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) laid on the ground, not far from a Thornbills' nest. This partly bears out the statement made by some observers that the Cuckoo often lays her egg on the ground and then transfers it to the selected nest. It seems strange that the foster parents do not notice the difference in size and markings of the introduced egg. But all are not deceived. One nest, that of a Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), was destroyed by its owners after a Cuckoo had deposited an egg in it. In another case a pair of "Yellow-tufts" had faithfully reared a young Pallid Cuckoo, until it was about nine days old. Then it was found on the ground nearly dead and with the end of one wing badly injured; no doubt through the Honeyeater seizing it at that spot to evict it. I took the little fellow home, wrapped it in flannel and placed it by the fire. When it was quite recovered it was placed again in the nest, but next morning it was on the ground, cold and dead.

Why have Cuckoos adopted this method of evading their parental duties? Did their ancestors at any time ever build a nest? Again, should the bird-lover destroy their eggs when found. The rearing of one Cuckoo means the murder of two, sometimes three, other little birds; birds in most cases that would be of greater value as insect destroyers. Should we allow this state of affairs in Bird-land to continue, just to perpetuate the existence of this unique bird? Is its perpetuation as a curiosity worth the big price paid in bird life?

Strange Choice of Penguin.—A very remarkable resting-site has lately been discovered at Burnie (Emu Bay), 30 miles west of Devonport. Beneath a stack of timber in a corner of the railway goods-shed was found a nest of the Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) with young; as these were not strong enough to move, the humane employees left the timber undisturbed, and the mother was afterwards seen visiting the nest. To visit her young, it is necessary for the mother, after leaving the sea, to cross three railway-tracks and then enter the shed beneath a sliding-door. An old resident of Emu Bay states that many years ago large numbers of penguins made their nests in the sawdust at Tom Hilder's mill on North Terrace.—H. STUART DOVE, F.Z.S., Devonport, Tas., 3/11/28.