

tralia.' (c) 1 immature, 'Australia.' (d), (e), (f), (g) 4 juvenile, 'South Australia.' (h), (i) 2 adult, 'Victoria, south-west coast' (J. T. Cockerell, collector). (k) 1 adult, 'New South Wales (ex Australian Museum).' (l) 1 juvenile, 'West Australia. (m), (n) 1 adult and 1 immature, 'Gippsland Lakes, Vic.' Seebohm Collection. In regard to specimens of Australian birds in the British Museum, a comment (*The Ibis*, 1909, p. 650) by W. Ogilvie-Grant is of interest: "... The Collection of Australian birds in the British Museum is, according to our modern ideas, of little use for scientific purpose; for, almost without exception, the skins are badly prepared and in hardly any instance do the labels bear any information except some vague locality, such as 'South Australia,' while the sex and data of capture is almost invariably wanting."

Ducks in a Changing Environment.—During my ten years in Coolup I have noticed the gradual changing in the nesting habits in the ducks, due mainly to increase in the fox, and possibly, to a lesser extent, the wild cat, and the destroying of the natural habitat by draining. The Grey Duck and Grey Teal, which used to nest to a large extent on the ground, are nesting in trees and tops of blackboys (*Xanthorrhœa*) in ever-increasing numbers. They are also nesting in situations similar to those used by the Musk Duck—batts of paper-barks in timbered swamps. The winter of 1944 was one of the driest on record and the ducks were hard put to it to find suitable nesting situations, as even in the swamps the water was very low, and foxes were wading in after the ducks.

Two unusual nesting sites were noted during the season. A Grey Duck's nest about 15 feet from the ground in a pine tree was one of them. A lot of pine needles had collected in a flat fork, about two feet from the trunk, and the duck had made a depression in this and brought out its eggs successfully. A Musk Duck made its nest in a dodder-covered paper-bark about five feet from the water. The nest was composed almost entirely of the parasitic creeper in which it rested. One day when I visited the nest there were two young ducklings, probably two days old or more, which gave a low cry and opened their mouths to be fed when I put my hand up to the nest. It was evident, from the way they started to eat pieces of the creeper in which the nest was lodged, that they were expecting food. The Musk Duck usually nests close to the water and it appeared as if they were trying to get out of reach of the foxes but did not know how to get the young down to water when hatched. The lobe in both ducklings was neatly folded up against the bill.—ANGUS ROBINSON, Coolup, W.A., 23/4/45.

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