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Housing Shortage.—For the past four years a Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*) has nested each season in a small hollow, about four feet from the ground, in a paper-bark, at Doonside. In at least two of the seasons—1942-3 and 1943-4—two broods were reared. No regular observations were made, particularly during two seasons. Nesting occurred about the same time each year and the following dates give some idea of the nesting period:

- 25/10/42—Kingfishers preparing nesting hollow.
- 14/11/42—Sitting on four eggs.
- 28/11/42—Small young.
- 13/12/42—Young quite large.
- 22/12/42—Young out of nest.
- 14/1/43—Again sitting on four eggs.
- 30/1/43—Young about half grown.

On October 23, 1943, a pair of Spotted Diamond-birds (*Pardalotus punctatus*) were observed nesting in the hollow, where they had constructed their usual nest of bark fibres. I was informed by Mr. E. Woods that the Sacred Kingfisher laid its eggs in the hollow while the Pardalote was still feeding young. The Kingfisher did not appear to make any attempt to interfere with the young Pardalotes, but it was not known whether they left the nest safely.

Again in 1945 the same thing was repeated, and the Kingfisher laid its eggs in the hollow while the Pardalotes were still feeding young. The Pardalotes were noted endeavouring to attend to their young while the Kingfisher was sitting, but they most probably could only do so during the Kingfisher's absence. In the darkness of the hollow the position of affairs could not be clearly seen, but the bark nest of the Pardalotes was probably pushed to one side of the cavity, and the young may thus have been separated from the sitting Kingfisher by the walls of the nest. The hollow was very restricted in size, with a small entrance, and the young Pardalotes must have had to put up with very cramped quarters. Again it was not known whether the young Pardalotes left the nest safely.—NORMAN CHAFFER, Roseville, N.S.W., 12/6/46.