

(italics mine). Littler⁵ described the nest of this species in these words—"The commonest type of nest here in Tasmania is that constructed of grass and lined with feathers, placed in the centre of a clump of long tussock grass in swampy situations." This suggests that he was aware of variations from the normal type of nest, though he does not describe any.

Of the five nests I examined on the island, two were lined with feathers and agreed very well with published descriptions. Three were lined only with fine grass. Of these, one was very old and may not have been completed. The second of this kind had clearly been used to rear young, and the third contained two addled eggs half hidden beneath drifted leaves. It was apparent that, in that restricted locality at any rate, Little Grass-birds are in the habit of building nests without feather linings. This could not have been due to any shortage of feathers; for the small island beaches are favourite preening places for shore birds, and feathers could be had for the gathering. I have had only a limited experience of Little Grass-birds in the three seasons I have been living in southern Tasmania, but so far I have no records of any variation from feather lining.

The publication of some notes on the Tawny Grass-bird (*Megaturus timoriensis* = *galactotes*) by Mr. K. A. Hindwood in *The Emu*⁶ suggested to me that my notes on the nests of the Little Grass-birds might be of general interest. In the article referred to the author concluded "that the Tawny Grass-bird builds two types of nests—one lined with feathers, the other lined with fine grasses. . . ." My experience with Little Grass-birds in Tasmania indicates that his conclusion may be true also for them.

REFERENCES

1. Lawrence, C. C. *The Emu*, vol. 44, July 1944, p. 75.
2. Campbell, A. J. *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*, 1901, p. 224.
3. Gould, John. *Birds of Australia*, 1865, vol. 1, p. 400.
4. North, A. J. *Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania*, 1889, p. 146.
5. Littler, F. M. *Handbook of the Birds of Tasmania*, 1910, p. 33.
6. Hindwood, K. A. *The Emu*, vol. 47, July 1947, p. 29.

Glossy Ibis near Melbourne.—On Wednesday, April 28, 1948, I noted a lone Glossy Ibis on a lagoon at Bulleen about 9 miles from Melbourne. It was feeding on the bank and flew at my near approach, but did not leave the pond. On Saturday, May 1, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bryant and I visited the lagoon and found the bird in almost the same place. It was feeding on the muddy edges. We were able to approach to within about 40 feet, by taking advantage of the cover afforded by rushes. The sheen on the bird was very noticeable in the sunlight. No trace of the bird could be found on the following day or on Monday, May 3.—BRUCE AMOS, North Balwyn, Vic., 4/5/48.