

Crakes appear to be more vulnerable to cats. One section that I have always regarded as Crake habitat was taken over by Rails last season; they even added to and used a Crake's old nest.

The Crake is a slightly smaller bird with a fairly sombre bluish hue, shading to white underneath. The most characteristic feature is the brilliant red eye. This is usually the first thing one sees as the bird cautiously peers through the cover when returning to its nest.

It seems more widely distributed than the Rail. I notice *Emu* references of birds from the Swan River (Serventy, vol. 47, p. 257), Terang (Binns, vol. 53, p. 215), Pelsart and Eclipse Islands (Warham, vol. 56, p. 84, and vol. 55, p. 66), Long Island in the Abrolhos (Tarr, vol. 48, p. 276), and near Melbourne (Bryant and Amos, vol. 48, p. 249). The last-mentioned account is contained in a long and interesting article to which I feel I cannot add anything.

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Nests in Termite Mounds—and a Query.—I refer to K. A. Hindwood's interesting article in *The Emu*, vol. 59, part 1 (March 1959), on birds nesting in termites' nests. I have received from the library Stan Bergman's book *Through Primitive New Guinea* (1957) at the same time as *The Emu* arrived. Dr. Bergman's book is referred to by Mr. Hindwood, particularly with reference to the Pygmy Parrot (*Micropsitta keiensis chloroxantha*) nesting in termite nests. Dr. Bergman was unable to keep these tiny birds alive in captivity. Perhaps they require nectar in their diet as our lorikeets do.

Mr. Hindwood also refers to Bee-eaters (*Merops ornatus*) burrowing in termite hills. I have had some experience of these birds making their nesting holes in this district in hard, clay banks of eroded gullies, road cuttings and in a gravel pit. There can be no doubt of their ability to burrow into termite nests.

Could any member suggest why the White-winged Triller (*Lalage sueurii*) has 'abandoned' this district? I have not observed one for about ten years. At one time, they came every year, about September or October, and nested in the pines around my house, sometimes in large numbers, filling the air with their melodious trillings. Nowadays we never see them. Do they return regularly to other Victorian districts?—NOEL NASH, Yea, Vic., 7/7/59.