Some concern was felt when a statement appeared in the Courier Mail in Brisbane that the Tourist Bureau was offering 'sportsmen' a hunting trip operating from Cooktown. In a ten days' slaughter they were given the choice of 'crocodiles, wild pigs, wallabies, kangaroos, dingoes, plains turkey, ducks and geese, and fishing for barramundi'. The presence of the Bustard or Plains Turkey on the list was quickly noticed by bird lovers in Brisbane, Maryborough, Atherton and Melbourne. It was stated later in the press that the Bustard had been removed from the list.

A letter to the Department of Agriculture and Stock on the matter brought the reply that the Department was aware of the proposed hunting trip, but no details were given as to what action had been taken.

The northern part of the State appears to be a stronghold of the Bustard, and the difficulties of policing the Act in such far-away places are considerable.

From correspondence received we note the formation of a natural history society in Maryborough, and wish it every success.

N. Jack,
Branch Secretary

Nestling Site of Tree-Martins.—While in Tasmania late December 1959 I noticed that around Swansea, on the east coast, Tree-Martins (Hylochelidon nigricans) were very common. Noticing a pair of the birds returning to the same area, under the Swansea pier, at intervals of about two minutes, I endeavoured to see the reason why, and soon heard the chirp of young from under the pier decking.

The Tree-Martins had built a nest consisting of small eucalyptus leaves and pine needles in the rotting longitudinal beams supporting the transverse pier decking. Entry into the nest was obtained through a hole in the side of the beam, along a passage of eight inches which opened out to the nesting cavity, portion of which, and the young, could be observed through the half-inch gap of the decking.

Further investigation showed another two pairs of Tree-Martins with similar nests, further out towards the pier head. A distance of about eight feet would have separated the nesting sites and water at high tide.—M. Hodges, Colac, Vic. 31. 1/60.

A new style of 14-pt. type (Times bold) has been introduced for titles of papers.