

"whit." One of these came across to our side of the river, and after calling repeatedly from a patch of scrub, suddenly flew across in front of us, revealing a beautiful golden-tinted plumage.

Strolling back towards the bridge, we heard the Flycatchers calling excitedly from some poplars planted close to the road. Passing through a swing-gate and glancing upwards, we at once espied a "Satin's" nest about eighteen feet up, in a most conspicuous position. The neat little grey cup was placed on top of a dead poplar limb which projected horizontally from the tree, and then curved upwards in a shallow bow, the nest being situate at the highest part of the curve. The birds continued to call near by, but would not return to the lichen-adorned cup while we were about.—H. STUART DOVE, West Devonport, Tasmania (November 15, 1927).

Correspondence.

THE NAME "PODARGUS."

(TO THE EDITOR.)

SIR.—In *The Emu* (Vol. XXVII, p. 117), Mr. F. L. Berney describes the gouty appearance of the feet of *P. papuensis* and takes it for granted that it was on account of these gouty feet that Cuvier called the bird *Le podarge*—*podarge* being the French word (through Greek and Latin *podagra*), for gout in the feet. Mr. Berney certainly appears to be correct, for Cuvier is said to have been the "greatest naturalist of his day" and "of pre-eminent ability as a scientific observer" and he would in all probability have observed the thick, swollen feet.

The transposition of one letter for another (*g* for *r*), whereby the Latin *podagra* became the French *podarge*, would, I think, be an instance of the well-known process in word-formation which philologists call *Metathesis*—e.g., *L. certus* was changed from *cretus* and the word "bird" was once spelt "brid"—rather than an anagrammatic change, such as *dacelo* from *alcedo*. An anagram is a purely artificial rearrangement of all the letters of one word to form another word. Anagrams have long been resorted to by scientists for names of new genera. Dr. W. E. Leach (1815), made *dacelo* from *alcedo*. This is the stock example among bird names. Later we find *Zapornia* (Stephens) from *Porzana* and *Toburides* from *Butorides* (Mathews).

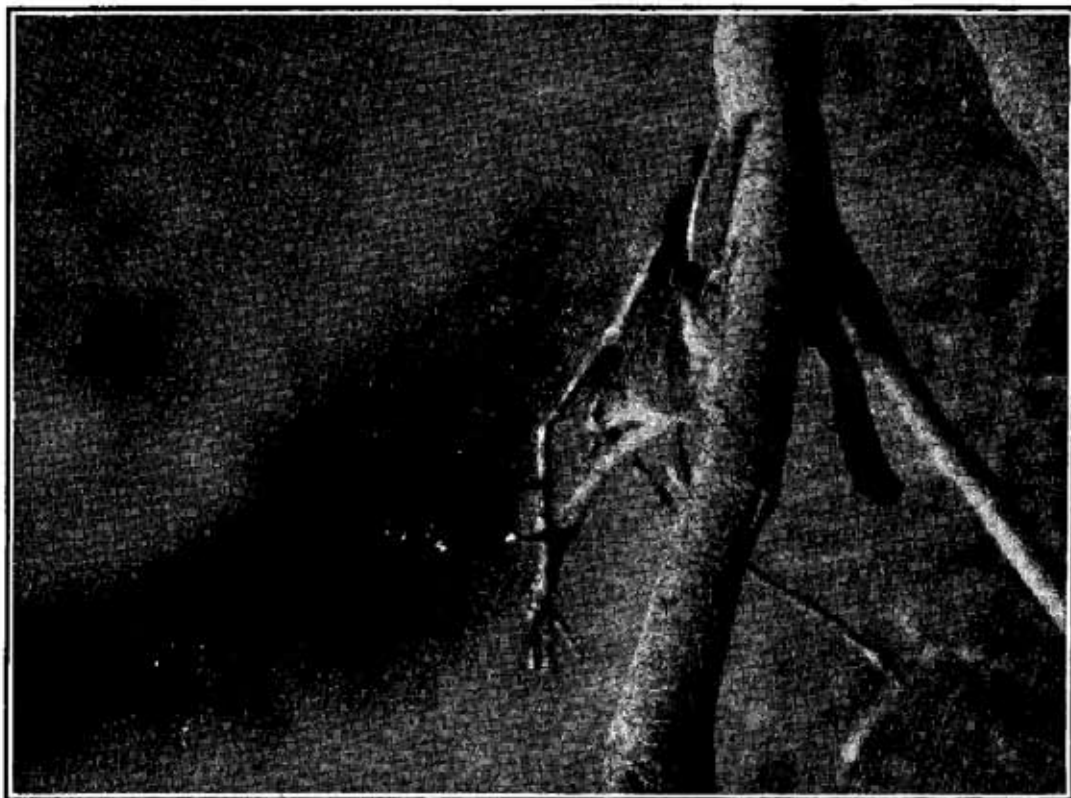
Mr. Berney refers to the flight and wings of the *Podargus*, but it is the feet only that the name refers to; the wings do not come into the matter. It seemed to me the bird might have been thought slow on its feet.

Yours, etc.,

Wahroonga, Sydney.

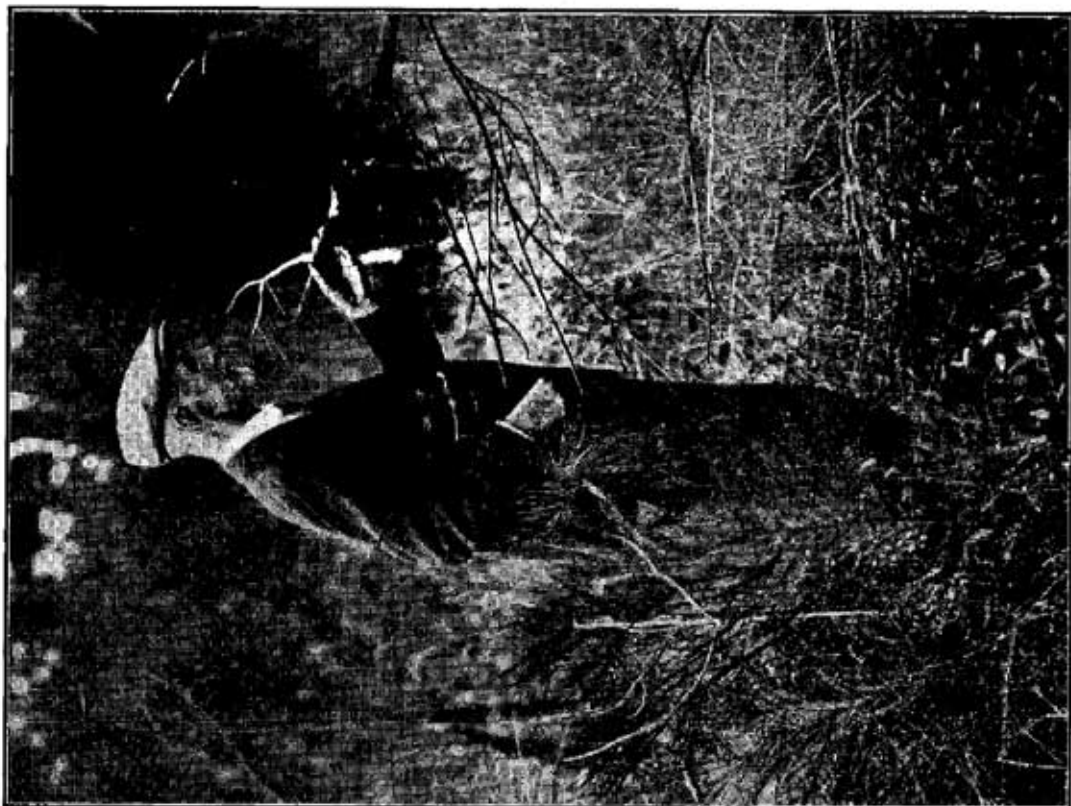
H. WOLSTENHOLME.

November 17, 1927.



PAIR OF JACKY WINTERS AT NEST ON DRY BRANCH
NEAR GROUND; AVALON, N.S.W.

Photo. by A. F. D'Ombra.



MR. H. WOLSTENHOLME EXAMINING JACKY WINTERS'
NEST SITUATED ON DRY BRANCH ABOUT FOUR FEET
FROM GROUND; WAHROONGA, N.S.W.

Photo. by A. H. Chisholm.