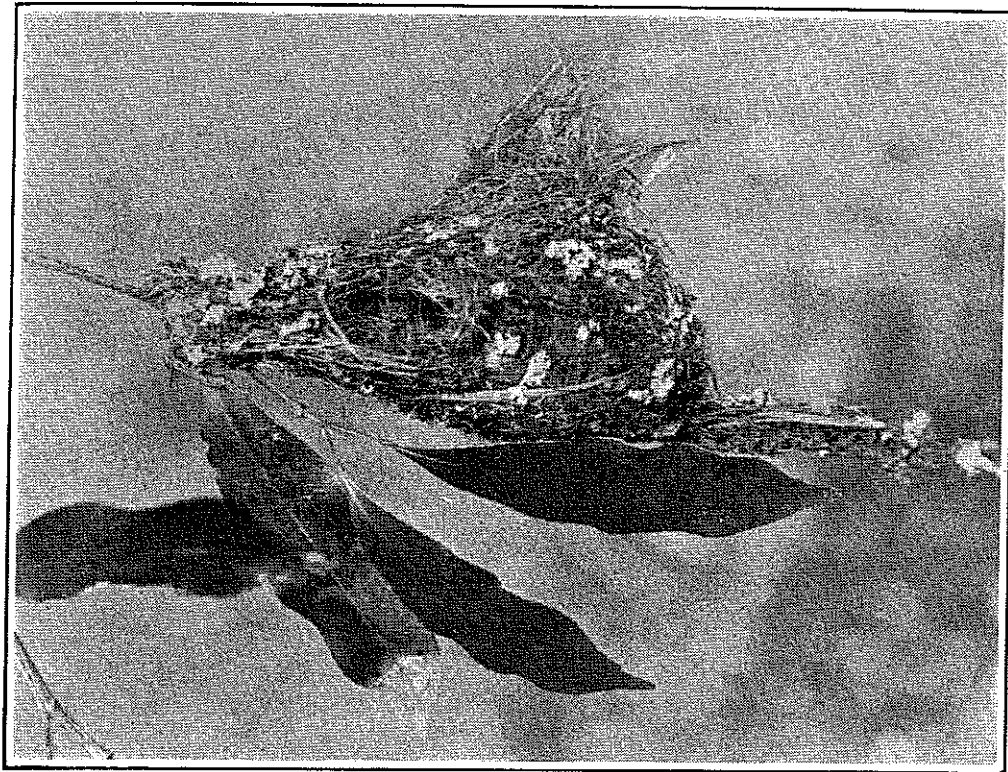


has written of White-throated Warblers and other open forest forms being attacked in precisely the same way in Queensland.

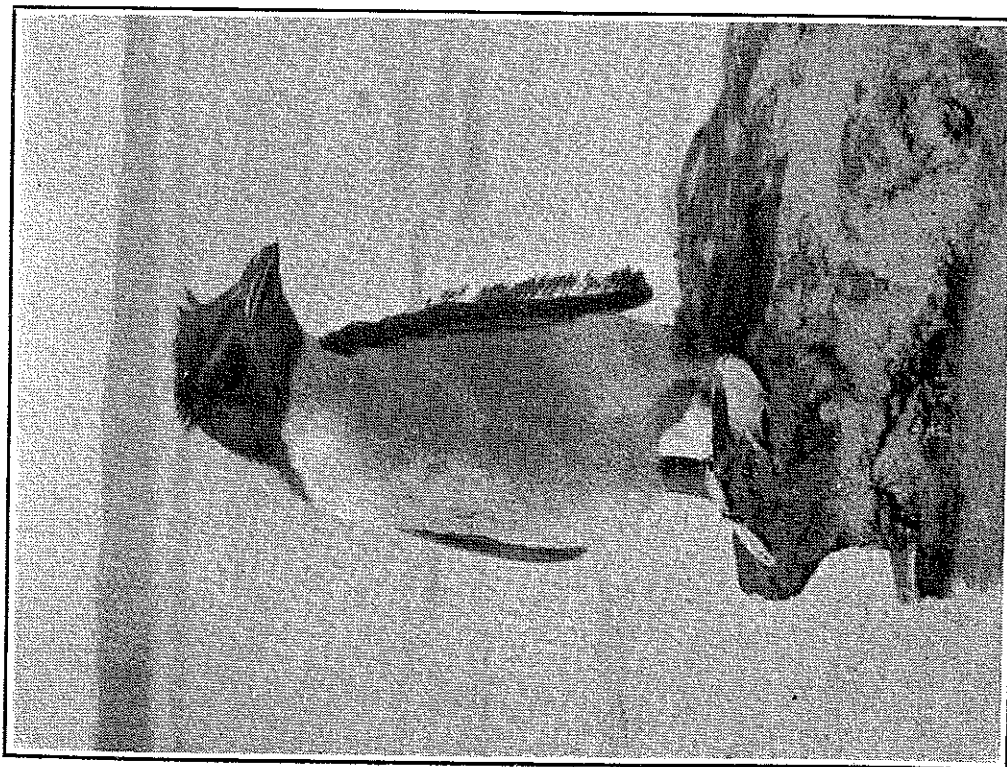
To add to the difficulties of the problem, birds which could not reasonably have been suspected of doing the slightest harm have been caught "red-handed." For instance, who would suspect the dainty little Spinebill? Yet this cheery sprite of the blossoms was observed by Mr. Ramsay to flash down upon the nest of a Yellow Robin, deliver two swift pecks at the contents, and dart gaily away. On close investigation, Mr. Ramsay discovered a neat round hole in each of the Robin's eggs, both of which oozed fresh blood. Two of three heavily-incubated eggs in a Silvereye's nest near my home at Penshurst were treated in a similar way, but the third egg had completely disappeared. It may be noted that Grey Butcher-birds were singing in the vicinity.

The main reason actuating the preparation of this paper was the hope that it might persuade observers in various districts to forward similar notes concerning this very real problem of the destruction of nests and eggs. Surely some of our many active naturalists have witnessed nests being destroyed by other birds, reptiles, or mammals. It would certainly be worth while to clear up the mysteries associated with the serious destruction of the nests of so many species, and the damage or disappearance of their contents.

Crested Penguin at Denmark, W.A.—Up to the present the Crested Penguin (*Eudyptes cristatus*) has been recorded from Western Australia on only three occasions; the late A. J. Campbell referred in his "Nests and Eggs" to a specimen from Hamelin Harbour, near Cape Leeuwin, and two specimens are in the collection of the Western Australian Museum from Middleton Beach, Albany, 1896 (*The Emu*, Vol. XIX, 1920, p. 295) and from Rottnest Island, July 10, 1909 (*The Emu*, Vol. IX, 1909, p. 92), respectively. In February, 1931, a fourth specimen was brought to notice by Mr. L. R. Alderman, of Denmark, but unfortunately the bird was not preserved. A photograph which was taken of the bird indicates the probability of its belonging to the species mentioned; the crest gives it the "very wild appearance seen in all photographs" which Messrs. Iredale and Cayley mention as a characteristic of the species (*The Emu*, Vol. XXV, 1925, p. 4). In a letter to me Mr. Alderman states:—"The bird was on the shores of William Bay for some time and was brought to the Ocean Beach, Denmark, where he stayed several days. Efforts were made to feed him, but in vain. He was as tame as could be. When he would not eat and



A torn Brown Warbler's nest.
Photo. by A. J. Marshall, R.A.O.U.



Crested Penguin.
Photo. by L. R. Alderman.

was apparently sickening, somebody took him some distance round the coast, hoping he would take off. Some days after that he was found dead. The height of the bird was about two feet; white feathers all over the breast from neck to tail, larger white ones under the tail; dark feathers all over the back, including the top of the head and wings; head rather flat on top and somewhat like a Hawk's; bill, the same colour as a Magpie's, practically the same shape only stronger; legs, very yellow. Apart from these feathers the body was covered with what appeared to be a very fine down."—D. L. SERVENTY, Subiaco, W.A.

Aerial Stunting.—When in the bush on the afternoon of October 4, 1931, I witnessed some remarkable stunting on the part of a pair of Harriers (*Circus approximans*). There were two pairs of the fine birds up aloft, but one couple rose far above the other, until the birds appeared very small indeed, and then one of them (certainly, from former observations, the male) commenced throwing himself about in an excess of amatory fervour, dashing downward, turning somersaults—while the female sailed around him in wide circles. This was continued for a time, and the birds rose to such a height that they appeared no larger than flies—far too high for me to catch the short scream which is the usual accompaniment to their aerial gambols. The afternoon was dry and windy, and all animals seem more excitable at such times; certainly, although I look out for these manoeuvres every spring, I do not remember seeing them carried out previously at such a great height and with such abandon. This sexual flight of Gould's Harrier seems to me the most remarkable performance we have among the birds of Tasmania.

That same afternoon I heard what was to me a new call from a Yellow-throated Honeyeater (*Meliphaga flavicollis*). The ordinary mating-call of this fine species may be vocalised as "Get-a-whip! Get-a-whip! Get-a-whip!", the notes being at about the same level right through. But this individual made it "Get-a-whip! Get-a-whip! Get-it-quick!", with a decided upward trend at the finish. Only a single bird had this peculiarity; the others were calling as usual.—H. STUART DOVE, West Devonport, Tas.

The members of the Union in Victoria have been asked to co-operate with the Forests Commission to aid in preventing forest fires. Notoriety to the Commission's appeal for care is sought, and as the disastrous consequences of bush fires are to be feared and prevented throughout the Commonwealth, it is hoped that members in all States will do all in their power to foster care and public spiritedness in this direction.