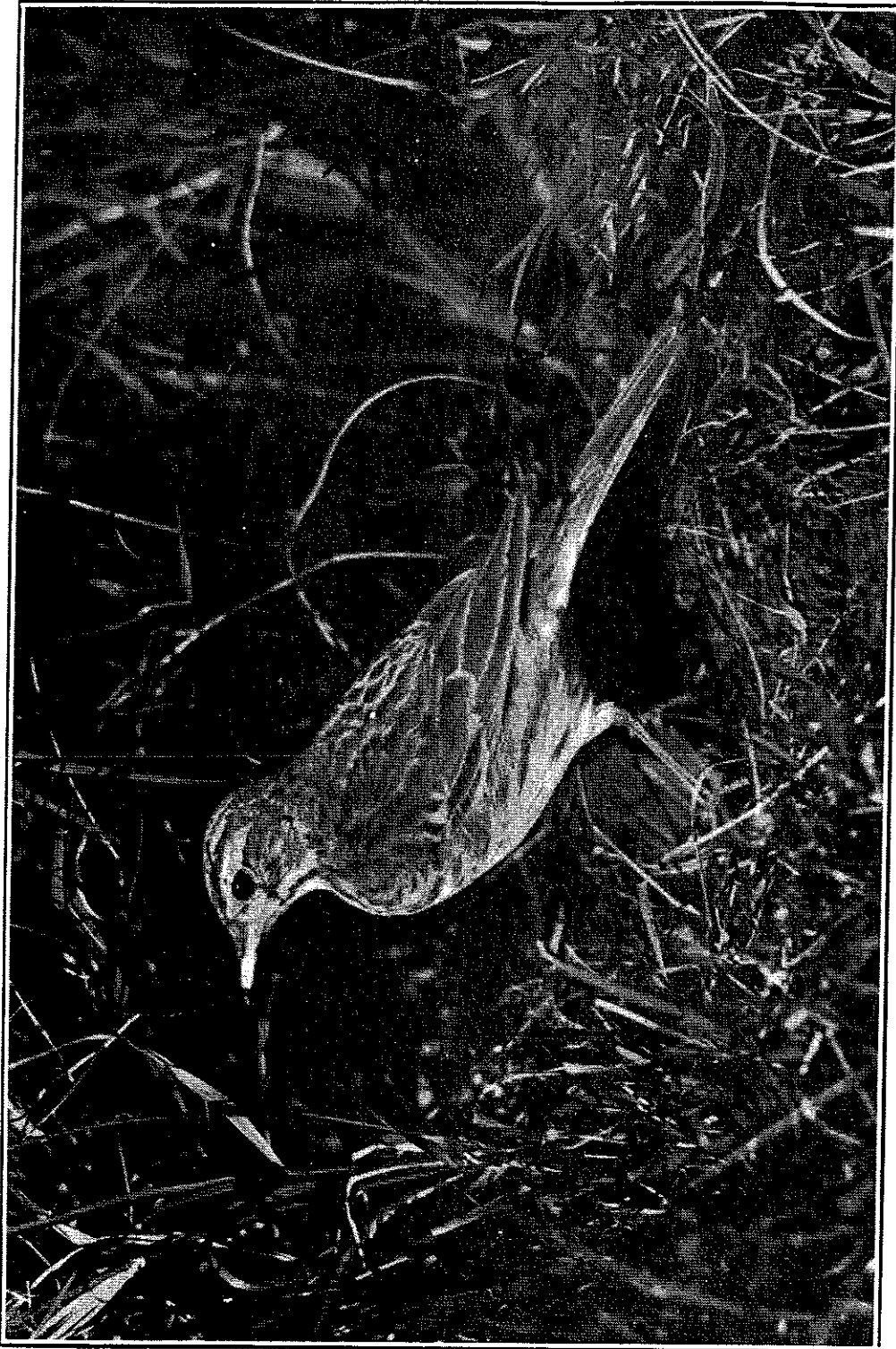


"chewed" until they had become thoroughly mixed with saliva, and that the resultant paste was then smeared on the twigs that lined the inner walls of the bower. A piece of dry, rotten wood was then placed in the cage and an orgy of plastering followed. When the deposit had become dry, we found that most of the inner twigs were well covered with a thick, greyish coat, of crumbly consistency. Each stick was treated separately, none adhering to its neighbour. I believe that no theory in explanation of this habit has been advanced and I am unable to suggest one."

When discussing this habit in *Birds and Green Places*, A. H. Chisholm states: ". . . Its only function appeared to be decorative."—K. A. HINDWOOD, R.A.O.U., Willoughby, New South Wales.

Photographing the Pipit.—Besides being a common bird almost everywhere throughout Australia where open grass country exists, the Australian Pipit or Ground-Lark (*Anthus australis*) is an interesting ground-dwelling species, and I considered myself rather fortunate when I secured a good photograph of an adult Pipit near its nest. It was early in October, 1931, that a nest well situated for photographic purposes was located near my home. When first found it contained an egg and two newly-hatched young, but when it was shown to me a few hours later, a third nestling had taken the place of the egg. The following Sunday I attempted to picture the adults "at home", but they would not approach very close to the nest. I then brought a "dummy" of very crude pattern, into operation. I first placed it a few yards from the nest, but each evening I moved it a few feet closer, until finally the Pipits took no offence at it when it was placed not more than a couple of feet from their home. It was bright and early on the morning of October 14 that the only successful photographic study I obtained at this nest was secured. The adults, both of which were equally industrious in feeding the young, would, when approaching the nest, always alight on a nearby fence, then fly to the ground below. From there they would gradually make their way to the nest, and, when close to it, approach hurriedly, feed the young, run away a few feet, and then rise and fly a considerable distance before alighting.

Unfortunately, misfortune was destined to fall on the faithful parents. When the young were well-grown it was noticed one evening that two were missing and it was conjectured that the remaining one would go next day. This suspicion proved to be correct, as, on the following evening, the nest was empty. I suspect a Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) of being responsible for the deed.—AUBREY J. ELLIOTT, R.A.O.U., Cambewarra, N.S.W.



Australian Pipit or Ground Lark.

Photo. by Aubrey J. Elliott, R.A.O.U.