

hollow has been selected by two birds. The inevitable conflict then takes place. Sometimes a decisive victory is gained by one or the other fairly quickly, but on the other hand the fight for the hollow may be a prolonged affair with disastrous results to eggs or young. It is not uncommon, on such occasions, to find combination clutches, and it is unfortunate that more attention and more careful records have not been kept by field workers.

Last season (1941) I watched a Ring-neck Parrot repeatedly chase a Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*) from a tree with a likely-looking hollow for a nest. On investigation it was found that there were two small eggs, presumably belonging to the Mulga Parrot, and one larger egg of the Ring-neck. On another occasion, near Wentworth, I flushed a Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) from a nest containing two eggs of her own and another, which I presumed to be that of a Ring-neck Parrot. On October 10, 1936, at Swan Hill, I flushed a Wood-Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*) from a hollow in a red gum standing in four feet of water. The hollow contained nine fresh eggs of the Wood-Duck. They were reposing on a thick layer of down under which was a clutch of Teal's eggs slightly incubated. Two years later I again visited the swamp and flushed a Grey Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) from the same hollow.

The Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) breeds freely when conditions are favourable for it to do so. Consequently, whenever extensive swamps are created by passing storms they breed in most unexpected places. The nest itself can only be described as a large globular formation of down which almost completely covers the eggs and which is plucked from the bird's body after the laying of the eggs has commenced. I have found their nests placed on the remnants of Swans' nests, in dilapidated nests of the White-browed Babbler, and on discarded nests of the Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*).

Other examples and similar instances have from time to time been recorded, but the subject is far from exhausted and is sufficiently interesting to warrant further investigation.

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**Choosing the Nest Site.**—May I add the sequel to the happenings recorded in my note "Choosing the Nest Site" (*Emu*, vol. XLI, p. 162)? The Pardalotes selected the larger hole and were successful in rearing a family.—N. L. ROBERTS, Beecroft, N.S.W., 23/12/41.