

female 676, a daughter of the female 29, with him at his nest, but 60 was absent. At 6.30 p.m. on September 25, 721 and 676 were together, while 60 had a juvenal with him, but I do not for a moment believe that this was a love match. It is more than likely that the juvenal, as is their custom, followed 60 to his nest. Next day, at 4 p.m., I found 60 with 676, at another spot, between 721's and 60's nests. Bird 60 was not again seen in this part of the colony, but 721 and 676 were observed several times up till October 7, merely wandering about together. Several times during the winter 676 had been standing about on the rocks, but I had not seen 721 pay any attention to her, though 60 had made her acquaintance at this stage.

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**Choosing the Nest Site.**—In some previous notes I referred to the active part played by the male Spotted Pardalote in choosing the nest site, and stressed the importance of recording any behaviour which may add to our knowledge of this early part of the breeding cycle. On September 29, 1944, two Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) flew into a sleep-out verandah at my home and settled on a brick ledge. Both adopted a squatting posture on several parts of the ledge, a corner position against the wall being most favoured. They maintained a subdued, tuneful chattering, and occasionally extended their wings and advanced toward each other, curtsying in a pretty manner. Several times they made reciprocal feeding movements but I saw no food exchanged. After a few minutes they left the ledge and fluttered around the verandah as if making a close inspection. Then they flew away, but returned soon and repeated the same series of movements. An inspection of the ledge revealed no sign of nesting material. The whole of their behaviour seemed to indicate they were seeking a site for a nest, and male and female appeared to participate equally in the proceedings. The following day I observed them carrying nesting material from a newly-dug bed in the garden which was still very moist after rain. Apparently they had found a neighbour's verandah more to their liking—my noisy family probably disturbing them—and nested there.

Another 'nest-prospecting' incident is perhaps worth recording. Last September, while gardening, I heard the repeated sound of a sharp impact, and noticed a Kookaburra trying to drive a hole into a decaying stump of a branch which had broken off near the trunk in a storm. After each effort the bird rested on a branch for a few seconds. Its beak struck the wood with considerable force and the mark made was clearly visible. Apparently, the wood had not reached the right stage of decay, for the Kookaburra desisted after about a quarter of an hour and flew away.—N. L. ROBERTS, Beecroft, 15/3/45.