

*Anous minutus*, within the Gulf, as opposed to their presence in Torres Strait, was noticeable. Habitats and general conditions on the islands for other species are similar to those of the adjacent mainland. Serventy and Whittell (1951) and Keast and Marshall (1954) state that many Australian birds breed after suitable rain. It is not surprising, therefore, that nesting was not recorded on the Gulf islands under the extremely dry and unfavourable conditions prevailing during this visit.

## REFERENCES

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**Bushlark as "removalist"?**—When I read A. H. Chisholm's paper, "Birds as 'Removalists'" (*Emu*, 62: 197-8), it strengthened my suspicion that the Bushlark, *Mirafra javanica*, may be capable of this act too.

On December 20, 1961, at 8 a.m., I twice saw a Bushlark fly to a certain spot, hover for a few seconds, drop to the ground, then fly away about a minute later. My curiosity aroused, I investigated and found a freshly started nest. There had been heavy rain during the night and the earth was already sodden from previous rains, but the birds had a freshly scratched depression in the ground beneath a prickly weed and had it partly lined with very soft, dry grass, which I later observed them carrying in bundles.

Another visit to the nest at 5 p.m. on the same day found the nest completed and partly covered by a frail hood. On December 21, at 5 p.m., the nest contained one egg, and by December 24 there were four eggs.

I took some friends to see the nest on December 28 and, while inspecting it, we accidentally cracked one egg, which we left in the nest. The next day I returned and found the nest to contain only the cracked egg; but the nest was undamaged and quite intact.

I made a very careful search amongst the grass and weeds nearby but failed to find a new nest or any pieces of egg shell. The area I searched would extend only six or seven feet around the original nest.—JANICE CARLYLE, Warra, Qld., 8/12/62.