

broken or otherwise injured. By a process of elimination, as well as by what was thought to be positive identification, the bird was considered to be a Red-necked Stint, "marooned" here when its companions departed northwards to nest. Several times during the next few weeks the bird was observed in the same place. Then about November I was again at the pond. As I peered cautiously over the raised bank I saw my "Stint" hopping about as usual, but when it turned and faced me I noticed the two completely coloured bands, one black and one chestnut, of the Double-banded Dotterel (*C. bicinctus*). What I thought earlier was a "Stint" was evidently the Double-banded Dotterel in its winter plumage, and when its underparts were plain and unornamented by the double banding. But in any case the bird was evidently unable to undertake the usual migratory flight, even as I originally thought, because although when first observed its kind were rightfully here, yet in late spring birds of this species should be in New Zealand, whence they migrate and where they breed.—C. E. BRYANT, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.

Scrub-wren and Its Nesting Material.—When examining nests of the White-browed Scrub-wrens (*Sericornis frontalis*) in the ranges I have frequently noticed that they contain great quantities of Lyrebird feathers. I had often wondered how it was that these birds were able to collect such a large number of them. Quite unexpectedly I received an answer to my query a few days ago. I was standing beside the nest of a Lyrebird when a pair of Scrub-wrens came to the nest. One remained on top apparently keeping watch whilst the other entered and soon returned with a beak full of soft warm feathers for its own nest. This performance was repeated three times within the next three-quarters of an hour. This seemed to me all the more remarkable, as there was an egg in the Lyrebirds' nest which, to my knowledge, had been there for the past three weeks.—N. J. FAVALORO, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.

Camera Craft

The Nest of the Grey Fantail.—The architecture of birds is always interesting, but the nest of the Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*) is one of the marvels of Australian bird-architecture. I was fortunate in discovering a Fantail commencing to build its nest, and determined to secure a photograph of the nest in the course of construction, without disturbing the bird. Using a 20-in. telephoto lens, I was able to obtain a series of interesting photographs. The nest was constructed of fine grasses and stringy bark woven

together, and held in position with cobwebs. It was lined with rootlets and hair, and thickly coated on the outside with spider-webs, which gave it a very neat and smooth appearance. Both birds worked very rapidly at the nest and it was completed on the third day. Much discussion has taken place concerning the reason for the wineglass stem constructed to the nest by the genus *Rhipidura*, and several ideas are put forward, such as balancing the nest during rough weather, and the draining of the nest during rain, but the nest is usually built in a well-sheltered position. I am of opinion that the wineglass stem is just used for ornamentation, and, concerning its utility or otherwise, like many other peculiarities of bird architecture, the reason for its addition cannot be solved.—CLARENCE L. LANG, R.A.O.U., Ararat.

Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria

On July 16 the above body celebrated the jubilee of its foundation with a dinner in the St. Kilda Town Hall, followed by a two-days' exhibition of natural history. Several original members, who attended the preliminary meeting on May 6, 1880, were present, namely, Messrs. F. G. A. Barnard, W. M. Bale, F. Pitcher and C. French.

The Club has many notable items of historic interest connected with it. The first camp-out was at Olinda Creek, Lilydale, in November, 1884; here were taken the type nest and eggs of the Helmeted Honeyeater (*Meliphaga cassidix*), now in the A. J. Campbell Collection at the National Museum, Melbourne. The first exhibition of wildflowers was in 1885. There have been many since, and for the last ten years or more the largest public hall available has been requisitioned, the proceeds being devoted to charity. The increasing interest of the populace in our wildflowers may be traced to this source. "A Census of the Plants of Victoria" was published by the Club and ran into a second edition.

It was in January, 1908, that Wilson's Promontory was proclaimed a National Park, a permanent reserve for our fauna and flora, largely as the result of the strenuous advocacy of the Field Naturalists' Club. Several expeditions have been organised from time to time, the first being to King Island in 1887. Numerous camps-out have been a feature of the Club's activities, while a complete syllabus of outings is carried out for Saturday afternoons.

"The Victorian Naturalist," first appearing in January, 1884, has been issued monthly ever since and contains in its pages valuable records of members' researches in all branches of natural history. The Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria is the parent society of the R.A.O.U. It was in 1900 that bird men became so plentiful that it was said there were too many feathers at meetings, so, after deliberation (see *The Emu*, Vol. I., p. 1) the Australasian Ornithologists Union, as it was then called, was formed.

The Club is to be congratulated upon its constant endeavour to popularise the taste for natural history. The Jubilee Show was a splendid effort, all subjects being represented, from aboriginal art to microscopic life, an exhibit of especial attraction being tame native animals and reptiles, caged in comfortable surroundings. Members were in attendance to give useful information about exhibits, and many years of useful service lie before the Club in this direction.—A.G.C.



The nest completed and bird brooding.



Grey Fantail at partially-constructed nest.
Photos by Clarence L. Lang. R.A.O.U.