

Lake, where we saw many Swans, Avocets in the shallows, Red-capped Dotterels along the edge, and a few Spurwing Plovers.

On the sandy country the daisies in bud early on our trip were now well grown, and flowering freely. The gravelly stretch between Sandy Creek and Fowler's Gap was covered with *Helipterum corymbiflorum* and *Craspedia crysantha*. Several pairs of Gibber-birds were flushed, and a few Australian Dotterels. We lunched at the hotel, and, crossing the creek, disturbed a pair of Spotted Harriers from their nest by the roadside. After we left Euriowie the hills passed through were in places one sheet of golden yellow from *Helipterum polygalifolium*; at others a duller yellow where the *Craspedia* buttons were dominant. The rest of the way was without interest to ornithologists, but botanically had quite changed since we had passed over it a month before.

#### FINIS.

**The Nest of the Grey Fantail.**—I brought home a deserted nest of a Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*), and as I was curious to know exactly what quantities of different materials were used in its construction, I decided to count them. Verily it was a long and tedious undertaking, but eventually it was accomplished. A very careful estimate gave 10,000 as the number of hairs or hair-like material used, while 2164 chips of rotten wood, 631 pieces of dry grass and stems, 257 pieces of fine roots, 167 pieces of moss, 2 leaves (probably accidental), and about 100 pieces of cobwebs were used in the construction of the nest. Obviously, these figures are approximately correct, as it is practically impossible to arrive at the actual number, which would probably be in excess of those given. The nest in question was described in *The Emu*, Vol. XXIII., page 22. — ROBT. H. D. STIDOLPH, R.A.O.U., Masterton, N.Z.

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**Hovering by Hawks of the Genus *Elanus*.**—Mr. W. B. Alexander, in a note (*vide Emu*, Vol. XXIII., p. 146), says that he was not previously aware that birds of this genus were in the habit of hovering. Mr. Sid. W. Jackson, in his article, on The Trip to the Diamantina River after the Letter-Winged Kite (*Elanus scriptus*), mentions the fact of this bird hovering over the nest when disturbed. As a matter of fact, he makes a special note with regard to this peculiar mode of flight. I would also like to record having seen a Grey Goshawk (*Astur novaehollandiae*) hovering for a time over some young Rails, which had taken shelter in a clump of rushes on a bare marsh. The Hawk hovered for fully a minute at one time, till it found that the little Rails would not leave cover.—J. F. H. GÖGERLEY, R.A.O.U., Ellerslie, Wallis Lake, N.S.W.