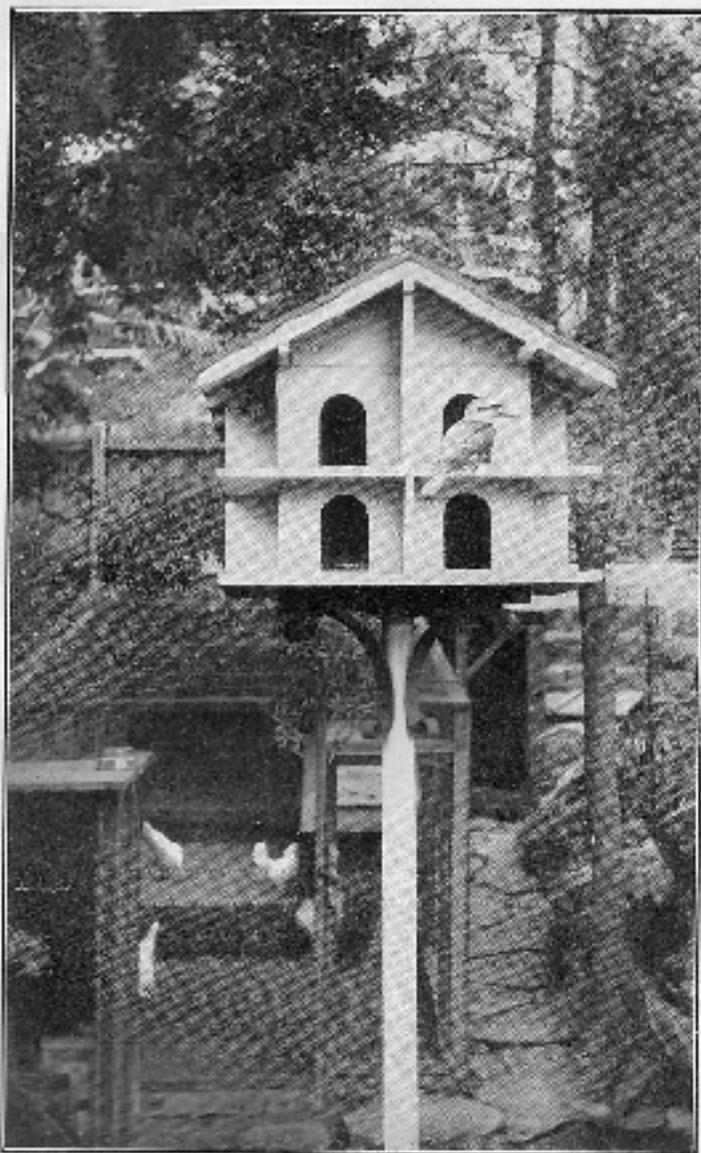


Bearing on the foregoing subject, Mr. D. W. Gaukrodger, R.A.O.U., writes as follows in the *Brisbane Daily Mail* of 16th January, 1926 :—

“ Much interest has of late been taken by Queensland ornithologists in a recent discovery by Mr. Jerrard, of Gayndah, of the appearance of the Black-breasted Quail, which it was feared had become totally extinct. The last previous official record seems to have been made by Messrs. Barnard Bros., to the effect that these birds disappeared, and have not since been seen at Coomoooolaroo station (central district of Queensland) for 25 years. Whilst ‘talking birds’ to Mr. Hall (manager of Barambah station), he said definitely that this particular species of Quail still existed more numerous than Mr. Jerrard’s ‘bevy of three or four’ indicated, and related that there is strong evidence that they are still breeding at the sources of the Brisbane, Burnett and Mary Rivers, about 75 miles south-east from where Mr. Jerrard observed them. Mr. Hall says they are essentially a scrub Quail, and he knows of one particular breeding-ground on Manumbar station. Messrs. Jerrard and Hall are both bird-men, qualified and reliable in their observations, and there is little danger of their making any mistakes in these instances, and so one begins to wonder whether there are not more of our so-called extinct birds still in existence if the many remote districts of the State were examined by similar careful observers.”

Supporting Mr. Gaukrodger’s note, Mr. J. O’Neil Brennan, R.A.O.U., writes :—The only time I saw the Black-breasted Quail was in a scrub on the side of a ridge at Moggill, near Brisbane. It was a very long time ago. I was looking for Top-knot Pigeons when I came across three of them. My gun was loaded with large shot, which would have smashed them to pieces, and so I did not fire. The three birds kept quite close together as they ran, and of course disappeared quickly in the dense scrub. About 27 years ago the late Messrs A. MacDowall and Henry Donkin told me that there was a Quail with a light-coloured eye in Beard’s bird shop, Brisbane, that they did not know. I went to Beard’s and found it was a Black-breasted Quail. Where it came from I do not know, and I have not seen one since. Previous to that, a bird-catcher, named Francis, more than once brought one or two in. They were well known to all the scrub shooters of that time, but always considered rare birds. A friend of mine had one mounted sitting on her clutch of eggs. She was shot in one of the scrubs about Moggill.

Strange Nesting-site.—Kookaburras (*Dacelo gigas*) have made themselves quite at home in our suburban gardens, and many are fed regularly by householders. A pair in the vicinity of Mosman come every afternoon about five o’clock, and make a good meal of about half a pound of beef. Sometimes a pair of Butcher-birds put in an appearance as well, and these are very clever at catching bits of meat thrown in the air. Last spring a pair of Kookaburras took possession of one section of a pigeon loft in Mr. A. Waddell’s garden at Edgecliffe. Two eggs were laid and one fine youngster hatched and reared. The birds were remarkably tame and showed no resentment if the baby was handled.—A. S. LE SOUEF, Taronga Park, Sydney.



WILD KOOKABURRA NESTING IN SHEPHERD PIGEON-LOFT.

Photo. by A. Waddell.