

better to start on a well-known valuable bird than upon a "doubtful" one. If we can honestly say that our efforts have shown the people as a whole the value of two or three of our very common birds in a year much will be gained. I think that newspapers would respond to any enquiry such as my suggestion through their columns.

A general discussion will carry more weight with the public than any statements from ornithologists just at the present time, and we should encourage evidence from those who think they have a grievance from certain birds, for it must do good, and this, after all, is what we require if we want to protect our valuable birds.

**Australian Pipit.**—The Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*) breeds very freely in the open grass fields around Port Phillip, and though a large number of nests are destroyed every year through being trodden on by cattle and horses, the bird continues to multiply in large numbers. The nesting season begins early in August and continues on into December, and in years when food is plentiful nests have been found in January. In good seasons the Pipit has been known to nest during the autumn.—D. DICKISON, R.A.O.U.

**Crested Bell-Bird.**—The Crested Bell-Bird (*Oreoica cristata*), although confined to Australia, is widely distributed over our continent. It is found in the three eastern States, but not in the coastal districts, and it extends across the dry interior of New South Wales and South Australia to Western Australia. It is not a shy bird, but is much more frequently heard than seen. Its beautiful notes can be heard a long way off when given in full volume, but the bird is an accomplished ventriloquist, so that when it is close at hand its call at times appears to come from a considerable distance. When incubating the bird usually sits most closely, and will allow one to approach very near before it leaves the nest. Reference has frequently been made to the habit of placing hairy caterpillars about the nest. On September 25, 1923, I found a nest containing three fresh eggs, and there were three caterpillars on the rim and fourteen inside, one of those inside being dead. The nest in the accompanying photograph was built in a broom bush, and was found by E. W. Bunn in company with myself on September 8, 1929. It then contained two slightly incubated eggs. Five days later we returned to secure the picture. The bird was on the nest, but left before the camera was placed in position. On the day on which the photograph was taken Mr. Bunn found two well-developed chicks in another nest of this species, but that same day a farmer rolled the belt of Mallee scrub which contained the nest.—J. A. ROSS, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.



Nest and eggs of Australian Pipit.

Photo. by D. J. Dickison, R.A.O.U.



Nest and eggs of Crested Bell-Bird.

Photo. by J. A. Ross, R.A.O.U.