

the neighbouring Storehouse Island—but they do not appear to molest the Gannets. The Silver Gull rookery was not properly occupied at the time of our visit.—BRUCE ANDERSON, Launceston, Tas.

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I wish to support the plea for strict measures to be taken to ensure effective protection for Gannets on Cat Island, Tasmania. At a rough estimate I should say there was not much more than one-fifth of an acre covered by Gannets' nests, all occupied—less than 1,000 birds. The birds nest on cup-shaped mounds of guano. I do not know if nests have recently been destroyed by the taking away of guano but the area already cleared of guano is continuous with that now occupied by nests. There is general agreement among those who have seen this rookery during the last few years that it is getting rapidly smaller.

I agree that if the rookery is to be preserved it is absolutely essential that the menace of Pacific Gulls should be, as far as possible, removed, and it must be done at once, this coming season. Human beings should not be permitted to approach the nesting area nearer than 100 yards, or, better still, no landing on the island should be allowed excepting, of course, visits by the caretaker, in October and November each year. As soon as humans appear the poor "boobies," having just enough sense to know something is wrong, become disturbed, and the waiting Gulls, always on the lookout for an exposed egg or chick, then have their opportunity. Other Gulls flock to the prospective feast and the toll taken is enormous. The Gannets do not attempt to defend their eggs or young. If the vicinity of the Gannet rookery is prohibited to visitors in October and November and a caretaker lays poison for Gulls (I believe that is quite feasible with strychnine and soda) and destroys their eggs, the Gulls will probably soon abandon their rookery in the island. If something of this kind is not done the Gannets will certainly abandon theirs.—G. MURRAY ANDERSON, Hobart, Tas.

Chough's Unusual Nest.—The White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*), which usually builds its large basin-shaped mud nest on a horizontal branch, at times selects other sites for its nest. A not unusual thing is to find the mud structure built in the centre of a disused nest of a Crow or Currawong. On September 26, between Cliff Bore and Bell-bird Bore in the western Mallee, on climbing to a large stick nest, near which were nine Choughs, I found it contained seven eggs of this species laid on the usual fur and hair lining of a Crow's nest. The nest had apparently been previously used by Little Crows (*Corvus bennetti*) as a dead bird of that kind lay on the ground below the nest.—R. S. MILLER, Melbourne, 20/12/35.