

into his bill. He then turned to the western wall, where exactly the same procedure as before was repeated. He left the bower then, and the scene with the green birds was enacted for a third time as were the same proceedings mentioned before upon his return to the bower. Evidently his working material was the whitish opaque lump from which he drew out the thin threads. Since, however, on the other hand, all the green Satin-birds were every now and then seen feeding from a food vessel in the aviary, and some were flying about with pieces of lettuce in their bills, it is not impossible that the birds, by munching and mastication, may have converted some of their food into material which was the "something" that the bower male extracted from the green birds' bills and placed on the walls of the bower.

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**An Interesting Nest.**—A friend who spent Christmas and New Year in an upland district about twenty miles from Devonport, brought me down the nest of a Firetail (*Zonæginthus bellus*) which had fallen out of the foliage of a eucalypt felled for making a bridge over a creek. It was not known that the nest was there until the tree was down. There were three fresh eggs, pure white, all damaged by the fall. The birds had evidently not finished laying, the usual clutch being five or six.

The body of the nest is almost globular, with a long projecting tail; it is woven of long, coarse green grass-stems, and the tail is twisted up in a remarkable way. The total length is fourteen inches, of which the tail occupies six, and the globular portion is seven inches in diameter—outside measurement. There is a soft lining of rabbit-fur and feathers.

This pretty Finch used to be fairly plentiful about Devonport and Latrobe 25 years ago, but has quite disappeared. Although on the fully-protected list, it was persistently trapped for cages and aviaries, which accounts for its local disappearance. Where I lived at one time, about 50 miles west from here, we used to find nests in the prickly mimosa bushes, the tail being laid horizontally on the branchlets, and used as a passage by the birds for entering the egg-chamber. I had not previously known of one to be built in a eucalypt.—H. STUART DOVE, Devonport, Tas., 3/2/39.

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Subscriptions for 1939-1940 are now due. Pay promptly. It will lighten the labours of the Hon. Treasurer and assure finance for the production of *The Emu*.