

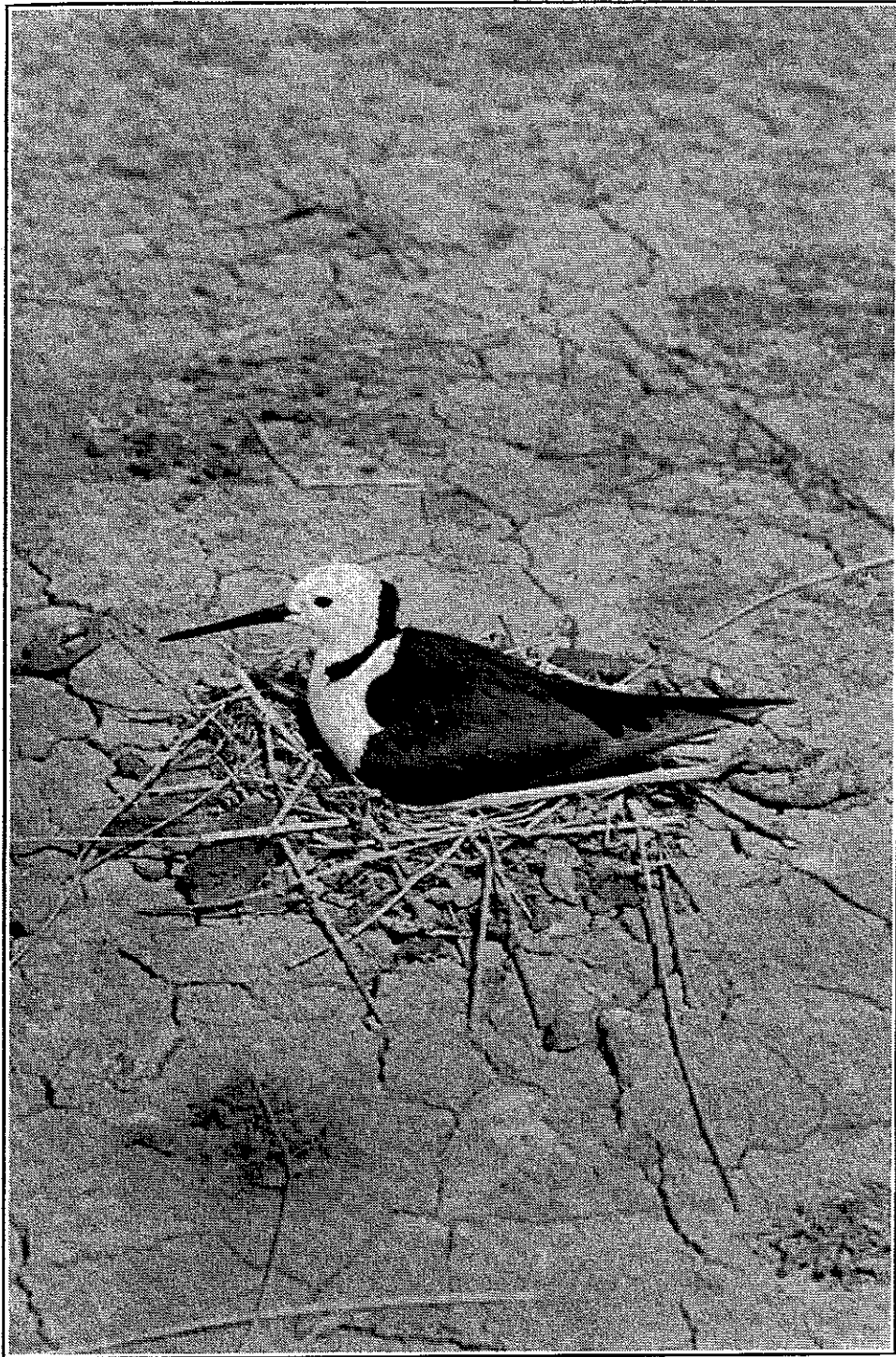
birds would not flush from the hollows when we looked in. Nests of the Pacific Heron with eggs were found, one so low that it could be reached from the boat. Although they are rather timid subjects, Mr. Elliott succeeded in photographing one of these birds. Mr. McNamara found a nest of the Yellow-billed Spoonbill with large young. Several of the pretty Pink-eared Ducks were seen swimming about attended by broods of young. The Maned Goose was numerous, and parties of fifty or more were seen.

In another small swamp were two nests of the White-headed Stilt, built on small mudbanks some distance from shore. These also formed subjects for the photographers. Several Hoary-headed Grebes and the Blue-winged Shoveller were seen here.

A day was spent in an unsuccessful attempt to photograph a Wedge-tailed Eagle. Its nest was in a eucalypt, about 25 feet from the ground on a high hill commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. It contained two young a couple of weeks old. On the same hill were found fair numbers of the Purple-backed Wren. They were elusive and difficult to observe.

I wish to record my appreciation of the hospitality and help extended by Mr. Frank Austin and to the folk of "Lake Midgeon." Mr. Austin could not do enough for us, and drove us for many miles about his property introducing us to many interesting birds.

Resourceful Magpie-Larks.—The dainty Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) often shows great resource in choosing a nesting site in a tree overhanging water. Almost every nest of this species observed by me during the past twelve years or so has been built either on the branch of a tree beside water, or in a tree growing in the water itself. A pair of these immaculate birds living in these dry, timbered uplands of central west Queensland have, perhaps, seldom, if ever, seen a natural body of water, as the creeks and the Nive River, which head here, seldom contain any amount of water for long. This did not deter the Magpie-Larks; however, for they solved the problem by building their nest on the tail of a thirty-foot mill some sixty feet above the ground. Beside the mill is a 30,000 gallon galvanized tank of sub-artesian bore water, and, as the winds blew from various points of the compass, the nest was over the water at least for part of the time. I am pleased to report that they were successful in rearing two of the four nestlings that were hatched out in this unusually-placed nursery.—N. H. E. McDONALD, Caldervale Station, via Charleville, Qld., 5/5/40.



White-headed Stilt brooding.

Photo. by A. J. Elliott.