

yellowish-horn colour. Three days later the tail feathers were showing and grey feathers began to appear on the breast. By November 20 the mottled back was very pronounced, the black breast band was beginning to meet in the centre, and the remainder of the breast was a darker grey than it had been previously. On November 25 the dark patches on the cheeks were beginning to show up and the black tip to the bill was developing, and on the following day the first indication of the fleshy lobe near the eye began to show.

The following year the first egg was laid on August 26, 1940. There were only two eggs in the clutch. The second was not laid until August 30, but in the meantime both birds sat closely. The first egg was chipping on September 24, and the second was hatched the following day.

Two more eggs were laid in 1941—one on August 1 and the second on August 4—but the birds did not commence sitting until late in the afternoon of August 5. Both eggs were hatched on August 27.

It will be observed that the period of incubation varied slightly on each occasion and that in each instance the chicks were all hatched about the same time, although several days elapsed between the laying of the first and of the last egg. According to Gould's *Handbook*, vol. II, p. 223: "The sexes are alike in colour, but the female has the lobe before the eye much smaller than in the male." In describing the birds (pp. 223-4) he adds that "the fleshy protuberance at the base of the upper mandible, which is blood-red in the male, [is] much lighter or flesh-red in the female."

The two birds previously referred to are still in the enclosure, but I am unable to say which is the male or which is the female. There is no apparent difference in the size, shape or colour of the lobe. As the breeding season approaches, however, the lobes on each bird tend to swell a little until they almost meet above the upper mandible and the reddish colour becomes intensified. But this change is not very obvious, and, had it not been for Gould's remarks and my endeavour to check them, I think it probably would have escaped my notice.

Grebe on Roof.—An acquaintance residing in the Western District of Victoria told me of finding the remains of one of the small grebes on the galvanized iron roof of a large shed. His conjecture was that the bird, flying by night, had mistaken the roof for a dam beneath it, and had dropped to what it thought was water and had been killed on the impact—an explanation that seems quite feasible.—C. E. BRYANT, Melbourne, Vic., 10/12/43.