

Marlo, Vic.—Jones (vol. 36, p. 317): 'the nest was formed by nipping short the inner stems of the tussock, which was about 12 in. in diameter and 18 in. high, the resulting cavity being about 6 in. in diameter. No lining was added'. This nest contained four chicks.

Bega, N.S.W.—Edwards (vol. 24, p. 35): 'On one or two occasions I found the dull white eggs, two in number, lying on bare damp earth beneath the shelter of a tussock without the slightest pretence of the formation of a nest'.

Cape Hawke Peninsula, N.S.W. — Gogerley (vol. 24, p. 34): 'Each nest was made in a hollow scratched in the sand. This was filled with dry leaves and a semi-domed nest made of stalks of asparagus fern and rushes lined with long thin grass'. Two nests found, with two and three eggs, respectively.

The survival of *Pezoporus* in the Carlisle district will depend largely, if not entirely, on the non-disturbance of its environment. These heathlands are extensive enough to permit local movement of the birds in the event of minor interferences with their habitat, but a major factor, such as fire, could seriously jeopardize their survival. With this in mind, the Colac Field Naturalists' Club is trying to have the area declared a reserve.

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Kookaburra and Rat.—Hearing a squeal, I saw on my back fence a Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) which had just seized a half-grown rat by the neck and was bashing it against the palings with considerable force. On my approach, the Kookaburra flew to the branch of a tree, where it continued to bash the rat for about 20 minutes, varying this "softening up" technique by moving the body of the rodent frequently through its powerful bill and squeezing it. Eventually the rat was swallowed, head first, in several slow gulps. I have seen a Kookaburra swallow two baby snakes in succession after bashing them against a branch, but there was no mandibular manipulation in this case, probably because the body of a reptile is far less susceptible to "softening" by pressure.

It was interesting to note that, when bones well covered with meat were put out for birds on my back lawn, the Kookaburras seemed quite unable to adopt the magpie's technique of holding a bone with a foot and tearing the meat off. They followed the stereotyped procedure of bashing, which is very suitable for their normal prey, and could not solve the "problem" of picking a bone.—N. L. ROBERTS, Killara, N.S.W., 20/1/61.