

Time taken to complete the change varies between seven and one half years and nine years.—R. F. KENYON for the Sherbrooke Survey Group.

**Nesting of Fairy Martin in Tasmania.**—On May 1 last our local medical practitioner, Dr J. D. Bryan, told me of a "most unusual nest" he had found. He described it to me, and from the description I assumed it to be the nest of a Fairy Martin, *Hylochelidon ariel*, as I had seen their nests in Victoria. However as neither the bird nor its nest had been recorded in this state during this century, and before that only in the north of the state, I went out immediately to make personal observation. The nest was attached to the roof of a small cave in a rocky outcrop approximately 20'-30' up the side of a hill below which ran a small creek. The nest site was approximately 200 yards from the "Ballochmyle" homestead on the outskirts of Tunbridge, in the Midlands of Tasmania about half-way between Hobart and Launceston.

Photographs of the nest were taken by Dr Bryan and also by Mr L. E. Wall of Hobart who later visited the site. There was no doubt that it was a Fairy Martin's nest. It appeared to be a recent construction and was probably used last summer.

The only reference I can find to previous records is the reference by Mr F. M. Littler in his *Handbook of the Birds of Tasmania*:

"Observations.—According to Mr A. J. Campbell, 'Mr S. H. Wintle, geologist, was the first observer to direct attention (*Victorian Naturalist*, February, 1887) to the fact that the Fairy Martin should be placed on the Tasmanian list of avifauna, because he had found the birds breeding at Bridport the season of 1883 and other years'. No birds of this species were visible at that place when I visited it during the breeding season on two occasions. Dr W. Macgillivray is reported by the same authority to have seen individuals about Launceston in October, 1893. I have no personal knowledge of this species in Tasmania, nor have Messrs Arthur Butler, H. C. Thompson, H. Stuart Dove, or several other observers from whom I inquired."

I have read Mr Wintle's article in the *Victorian Naturalist* and his reference to the species was not so much to the actual presence of the bird in Tasmania, but to its proximity to the coast, contrary to a view apparently expressed by Gould regarding distribution.—ROGER T. VINCENT, Oatlands, Tasmania.