

few in number and restricting themselves to a small area of one paddock, they were often seen. Their hours of greatest activity was always approaching dusk, when the low call was monotonously uttered. On very hot days the small covey spent most of its time in the tall swamp grasses and was very difficult to flush, the birds resorting to camouflage as a means of avoiding detection. Several clutches of four eggs were located and the numbers seemed to be increasing. The most interesting note made about the species was the habit of placing as many as eight small stones in and around the nest. The Quail must have carried the pebbles a fair distance (probably from a nearby creek) as no pebbles could be found in the surrounding grass. Three nests were thus decorated and in another a small piece of silver paper was discovered. During the 1956 nesting season several nests were found to contain short pieces of green grass. The nests were always made of dry grass and usually five inches or more long. These pieces of green grass served no apparent function in the nest and I would venture were of decorative purpose.

On removing all the fresh grass from one nest, I was interested to note that it was replaced when I revisited the nest two days later. It was again removed and was again replaced. The grass used was of the rye type which grows very strongly in the district. I would like to hear then of any other person who has found strange objects in a quail nest, for on several occasions since I have introduced such objects into the nests of other species of quail and always they have been cleared out within a matter of hours.

Pratincoles in north-west Queensland.—John Liddy's paper on 'The Australian Pratincole in North-west Queensland' in *The Emu* for May, will undoubtedly have aroused interest in this graceful bird, and perhaps the following records, from the same area, supplementing those of Mr. Liddy, may be worth recording.

They were all made during a trip through that area in 1955.

Soudan Station (about 100 miles west of Camooweal). One pair near a small spring area on 5/8/55.

Carandotta Station (see Liddy). Three birds near the homestead on 10/8/55.

Between Boulia and Hamilton (200 miles west of Winton). On the flat country Pratincoles were very numerous alongside the road just before dark on 12/8/55. Their numbers would have been between 100 and 200.

Westerton Station (west of the Thomson River and Vergemont Creek about 80 miles south-west of Longreach). One bird was seen on 15/8/55. This last might perhaps be said to be beyond strictly north-west Queensland.—H. R. OFFICER, Olinda, Vic., 12/7/59.