

A surveyor friend of mine told me that while out surveying near Perth he found a nest of a Fawn-breasted Kingfisher with big young ones in that had been attacked by termites, or white ants. The young birds were just alive, and were coated with mud by the termites, and the entrance to the nest blocked up, and their mouths also closed with mud by the insects.

There is a pretty little Black-and-White Fantail (*Rhipidura tricolor*) which had a nest in an old garden by the river and in her nest were two young ones, but one was the ordinary colour and the other pure white.—LANCE LE SOUËF. South Perth (W.A.)

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YELLOW-THROATED HONEY-EATERS.—The cool, showery season which has been experienced this summer in our Island-State appears to favour not only a rank growth of vegetation, but also a somewhat abnormal production of bird-life. When Mr. H. C. Thompson and myself went on a little exploring trip the other day to the banks of a river, we were struck with the great numbers of Yellow-throated Honey-eaters (*Ptilotis flavigularis*) which haunted the tea-tree scrub near the stream. It was an ideal spot for birds, masses of tea-tree, prickly wattle, and above these white gums, affording splendid cover for various species. There was a fair number of "New Hollands," and a Spinebill or two, but the Yellow-throats were in such preponderance as quite to overshadow all others. Every bush, almost, into which we looked contained some of these fine birds, and the air was melodious with their notes. Their tameness was remarkable; in one instance our eyes were close to an individual comfortably ensconced in a bush, the bird sitting quietly there as if not at all objecting to a close examination. May this Eden long remain unmolested!—H. STUART DOVE. W. Devonport (Tas.), 11/2/05.

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BIRD-VISITORS TO THE BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE.—In cleaning away water weeds it has been found necessary to partly drain the lake in the Gardens, and it is surprising how quickly native birds have discovered the food exposed upon the mudbanks and along the margin, and come in some numbers to feed, with but little concern, within a few yards of onlookers. No less than 15 species were noted just a week after the draining commenced. The Bald-Coot (*Porphyrio melanonotus*), the Coot (*Fulica australis*), of which there were a great number of young ones, the Rail (*Hypotaenidia philippinensis*), the Little Crake (*Porzana palustris*), the Magpie-Lark (*Grallina picata*), the Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*), and the Little Grass-Bird (*Megalurus gramineus*) are probably always present in the reeds and rushes; but such as the White-necked Heron (*Ardea pacifica*), the White-fronted Heron (*Ardea novæ-hollandiæ*), the Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*), the Black Duck (*Anas superciliosus*), the White-eyed Duck (*Nyroca australis*), the Teal (*Nettion castaneum*), the Bush-Chat



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