

Willie Wagtail nesting in mine-shafts and on the ground. The nesting site of the Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) is so well known that description of it is unnecessary.

However, some years ago a nest was found that was built on the ground and attached to a piece of quartz. This was a most unusual position, as there were hundreds of suitable places available in the open forest trees of the area.

Since that time the area has been visited regularly and, as reported in the *Bird Observer*, other nests have been found in shallow mine-shafts, where they were attached to the roots of trees that were protruding from the sides of the hole.

Each year this district, which is about nine miles south of Maryborough, has been carefully searched for any nests that have been built in mine-holes or on the ground. Nests have been found every season built in the shafts but none has been located constructed on the ground.

One year three occupied nests were found, and last year two more nests that were in use were located. Has the instinct to build the nest in this position been passed to the young birds from the original ground-nesting birds? Further observations on the nesting behaviour of these birds may confirm this theory.

—*J. Rogan, Maryborough, Victoria, 10/2/65.*



Willie Wagtail's nest built on the ground.