

were difficult to see from below. Each nest was made of the leafy twiglets of melaleuca and pomaderris, and one was completely lined with toilet-paper.

In spite of a careful search we were unable to find the new nest. However, we did find two egg-shells from which young birds had been hatched. These shells were some 30 yards apart, and each one was resting on the bare ground between the clumps of bushes.

It was interesting to notice that they were the shells of two eggs, as the literature indicates that one of the two eggs is usually infertile. One of them was complete, with the smaller "half" turned inside the larger "half", in a manner similar to that of the quails.

It would appear from the state of the shells and their position that they had been dropped by the one bird, and it is hardly likely, from the size of the area and our observations, that two pairs of birds were present.

—*H. B. Somerset, Melbourne. 6/11/1964.*

Vocal Mimicry by the White-breasted Wood-Swallow. On February 7, 1964, at 6.45 a.m. a White-breasted Wood-Swallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) was perched on electricity wires in Woolgoolga, New South Wales. It was one of a small flock that was feeding before moving further north.

I was first attracted to its presence by a series of call-notes which suggested that it was practising vocal mimicry. That assumption was proved correct when, a few minutes later, I identified the calls of the Little Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina robusta*) and the Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*). It also reproduced calls which resembled those of the Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*), Olive-backed Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*) and the Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*).

Its mimicry terminated, however, when its mate arrived, and a few minutes later they were gone.

—*Les Holland, Woolgoolga, New South Wales. 1/3/1965.*

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