

A Bustard at Bolgart.—The Australian Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*) is rarely seen in the Bolgart district; therefore, in mid-July, when children in a school bus saw one nearby in a paddock it created quite a stir of interest. My only previous record was of a bustard seen in the same paddock on May 1, 1949. In both these years the season was very late and rather dry. The 1949 bird was shot by a youth who was fond of hunting. The fate of the latter bird is unknown. Bustards are considered fair game even by those who profess to advocate the preservation of wildlife, one such person expressing the opinion that a wild turkey may as well be shot and put in the pot as left to the foxes to eat.

—RICA ERICKSON, Bolgart.

Red-tailed Tropic Bird at Busselton.—On January 11, 1956, a single Red-tailed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon rubricauda*) was watched for some time patrolling up and down along the beach at Busselton on a course about 20 yards inland from the water's edge. The bird flew at about 25 feet from the ground and behaved very much as tropic birds do on their breeding grounds, hesitating with much "back-peddalling" of its wings over a single spot like a breeding bird over its nest. Unfortunately the spot over which the bird hesitated was a patch of bare, much-frequented sand near a children's roundabout; the bird hovered here about 10 feet above me when I stood there. Although there were many suitable sites in the marram grass above which the bird was patrolling, a casual search failed to reveal any nest. This record brings to mind that of S. R. White of a Red-tailed Tropic Bird which nested in Busselton in 1939, in the same area as that above which the present bird was flying.

—JOHN WARHAM, Perth.

Supposedly Parasitic Bulldog Ant.—While examining nests of the Bulldog ant, *Myrmecia vindex* in the Wagin district in March last year, I was astonished to find in the galleries of one of these another species of Bulldog ant which, unlike *vindex*, had a black head and was either a welcome guest or a parasite. On that occasion I collected a number of de-alate females and one winged black-headed male.

This discovery has been confirmed this year and I have kept specimens alive in observation nests containing the complete colony of *vindex*, including the Queen of the nest in which the parasite was found.

No workers of the parasite have been discovered as yet; the observation of this parasite in an artificial nest is extremely interesting. These observations and the precise description of these ants are the subject of a paper now in preparation.

Parasitism between ants is not unheard of but this is the first time, as far as I can ascertain, that it has occurred in a ponerine ant colony.

—ATHOL DOUGLAS, Museum, Perth.