
BIRD NOTES

UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF WHITE-BROWED WOOD-SWALLOWS — On December 8, 1972, Jean Finnegan and I went to Jip Jip National Park. This park of 350 acres is seven miles west of Desert Camp Corner, which is 26 miles south of Keith. While we were walking over one of the granite rocks, which form the most striking feature, we discovered the nest of a White-browed Wood-Swallow *Artamus superciliosus*. We heard the cheeping of the chicks coming from a narrow crack in the upper surface of this rock. By lying down and putting our eyes to the crack, we could make out the nest and three chicks, which were made conspicuous by their orange-yellow gapes. As the crack was only about two inches wide and the nest was placed about 18 inches down, we thought that the parents must crawl along a tunnel, with its opening at the side of the rock, to feed the chicks. This would have been a laborious task, as the nest was at least three feet from the side of the rock.

On this trip, from December 5 to 11, we saw many White-browed Wood-Swallows; and the only explanation I can offer for the unusual siting of this nest is that there was a shortage of suitable nesting places for this species.

—PENELOPE REID.