

UNUSUAL NESTS.

On several occasions when searching among the teatrec at Bool Lagoon with visiting birdmen, many curious nests of the Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo noexena*) have been examined, but apparently have not yet been reported, so perhaps a short description of them may be of interest. The Swallows in this area build streamlined nests of grass-fibres and feathers, using very little mud in the process and in some cases none at all. They simply select a suitable place on a loose piece of bark, usually on the underside of a leaning tree trunk, and proceed to line the site with feathers, sometimes placing a few daubs of mud around the rim. In those instances where no mud at all is used, the birds generally bind the edges of the nests with a few wisps of fine grass or plant fibre. This departure from conventional nesting is difficult to understand, as plenty of mud is available on the banks of the Lagoon 300 or 400 yards away, and Magpie Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) breeding in the same group of trees regularly use this supply to construct their typical mud nests.—A. R. Attiwill.