

BIRD NOTES

PELICANS NESTING ON LIGNUM

F. R. H. Chapman (*S.A. Ornith.* 24, 1963, p. 9) notes that the Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*, has only been recorded as a ground nester. However during January, 1964, W. Braithwaite, B. Hall and the writer located a colony of Pelicans nesting on Lignum *Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii* in Lake Cowal, Central N.S.W. Nests were composed of pieces of dried lignum, grasses and feathers and contained eggs or small young. Nest height above water varied from about a foot to ten feet. Large young in various stages of development clustered together on well beaten down 'platforms' of lignum, taking to the water when pursued during banding operations. An estimated 1000 to 1500 breeding pairs of Pelicans in all were present in the colony which was situated in the midst of a large breeding rookery of the three Ibis species and smaller breeding colonies of Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills, Black, Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants, Darter and White-necked Heron.

JOHN L. McKEAN.
