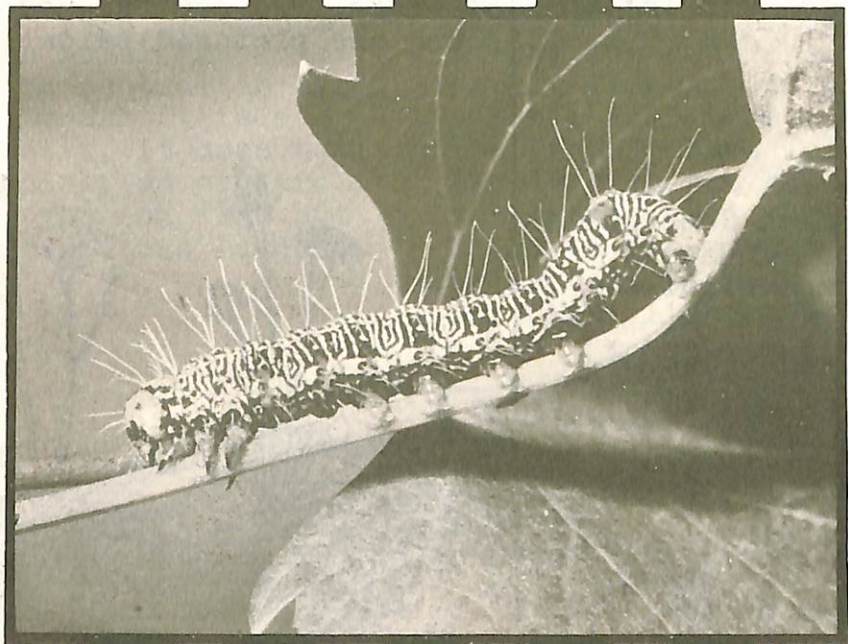


# nature notes



vol 8 no 2

6 cents



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Cover:  
Vine Moth Caterpillar  
Photo: F. Rogers,  
see page eight.

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Next issue: 5/4/71.

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Registered at the  
G.P.O. for trans-  
mission by post as  
a periodical.  
Category B.

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## editorial

How many of you found all the things that Mr. Rogers mentioned in last month's "Things to Look For"?

One of the grades at our school found many eucalypts in flower and were interested to count the types and numbers of birds that visited those flowering trees.

Another grade found a number of weeds. Two common ones they found are pictured below:



Dandelion.



Flatweed.

We hope you can find many of the things Mr. Rogers mentions this month.

The Editors.

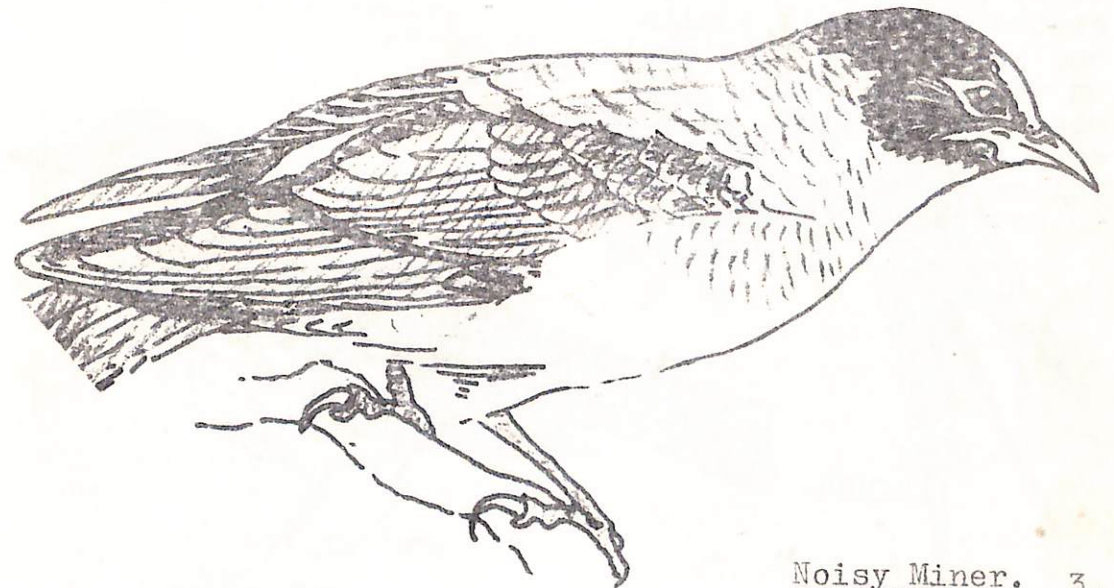
## birds of our

LAST MONTH we looked at some of the common birds to be found in many of our schoolgrounds. One was the Indian Myna. The first bird for this month has a similar name and nature - it is the Noisy Miner. We used to call him the "Mickey Miner" when we were at school.

The Noisy Miner is a native Australian bird, and although it is a honeyeater, it does not feed mainly on nectar. See if you can find out more about this raucous bird.

ANOTHER GREY BIRD is the Grey Thrush. This fellow, slightly larger than Mickey Miner, is possibly our most popular bird. Its call is very different from Mickey's, and on a crisp spring morning early, it would be hard to find a more beautiful sound than the dulcet tones of the Grey Shrike Thrush - to give him his full name.

Often I have followed him through the bush, mimicking his call, and listening to his answer. When at school, we made up words to fit his call,

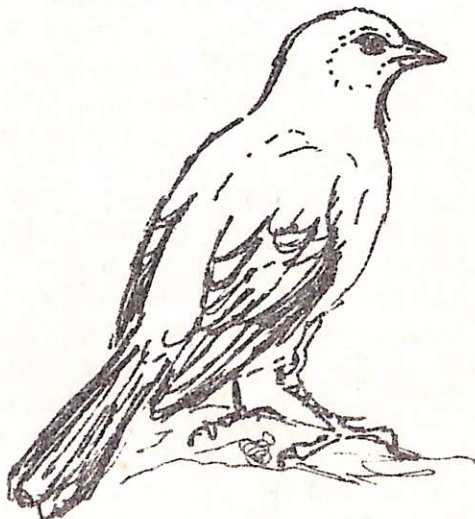


Noisy Miner. 3.



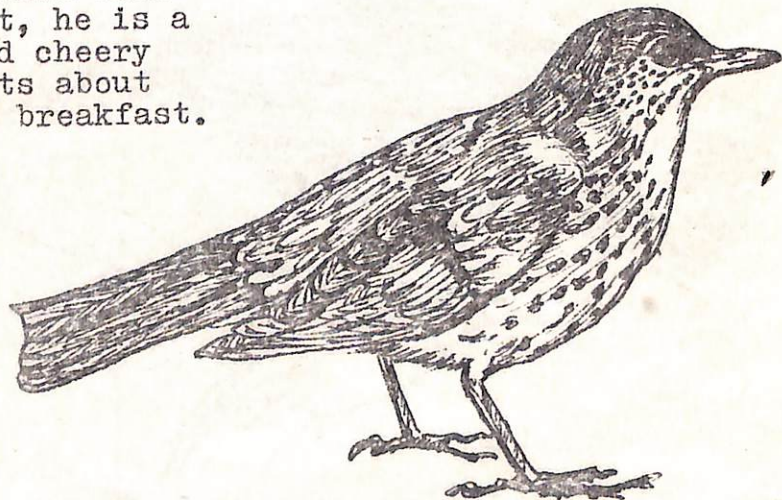
# neighbourhoods

which we thought sounded like he was saying "Here comes old Bob Jolley". Listen for him and see what you think. Do these words match his call?



Grey Thrush.

And now, another thrush. This time it is an introduced one. It was brought to Victoria in about 1850. The Song Thrush has often been a most welcome visitor to my garden because he cracks open snail shells and makes a pig of himself on them. Apart from this most useful habit, he is a very friendly and cheery fellow as he darts about in search of his breakfast.



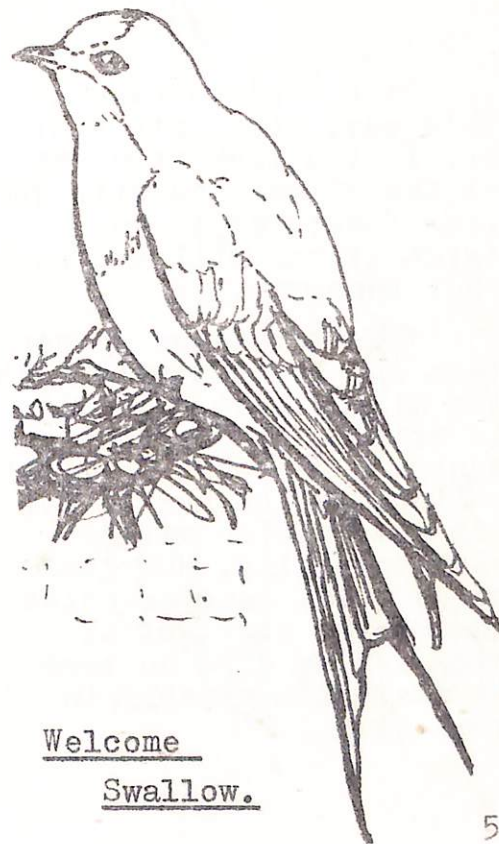
Song Thrush.

SOME YEARS AGO a frequent visitor to Norwood schoolground was a large black bird with a white patch on the wings and base of the tail. No shy bird is this fellow, especially when scavenging for food scraps. His name "Pied Currawong" comes from his loud but mellow whistling call. Because he robs orchards he has often fallen out with farmers; but I am sure his "Keep Australia Beautiful" attitude makes up for this.



Pied Currawong.

They say "one swallow does not make a summer". This is very true here as there always seems to be a few of these graceful fliers in most schoolgrounds at all times of the year. Most swallows migrate, but some are left behind each year. Why do you think this is so? Why do you think they are rare in Central Australia? What makes them so useful to man? The answers to these questions and many more you will ask yourself can be discovered by careful observation. More help will be found in Robin Hill's "Australian Birds" or Graeme Chapman's "Common City Birds", another "Periwinkle" from Lansdowne Press.

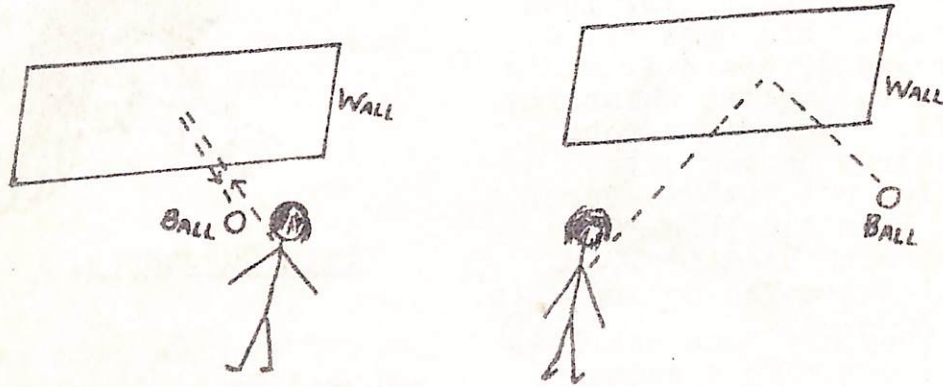


Welcome Swallow.



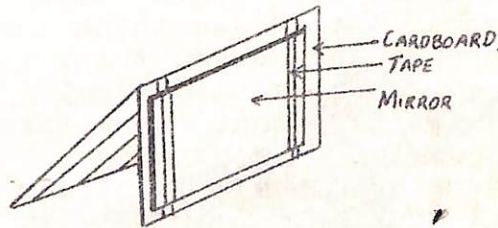
# science

Have you ever thrown a ball against a wall so that it returns to you? What happens to the ball if you throw it to one side? Does the ball come back to you?



Other things behave in this way. Look into a mirror. If you look straight at the mirror you will see your face; but if you twist it you will not see your face.

When mum makes up her face she looks straight at the mirror. But when dad is driving the car and wants to see what is right behind him, he has to set his rear vision mirror very carefully. How does he do this? Does he point the mirror straight at himself? Or does he turn it away from himself in some way?

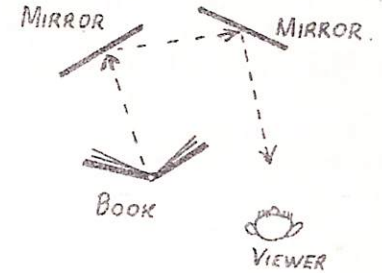
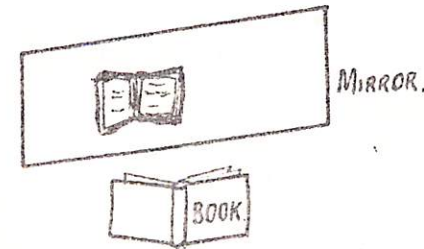


Make a rear vision mirror for your desk. You will need a piece of cardboard, a hand mirror and some sticky tape.

# reflections

What happens to the printing in a book when you look at its reflection in the mirror? Can you make some writing that looks correct when you look at its reflection in the mirror?

Try using two mirrors to see what the effect is.

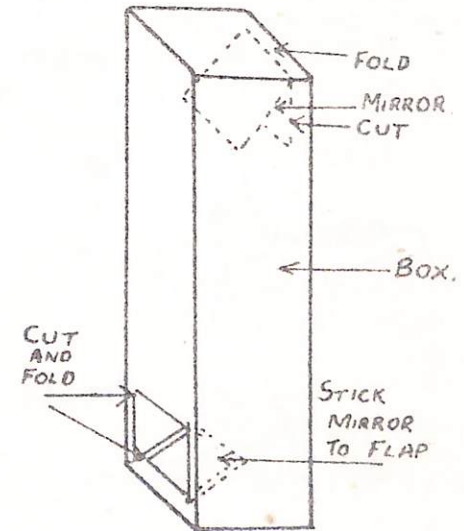


What happen if you use two mirrors?

Make a periscope. For this you will need a long, thin box, two hand mirrors and some tape. Perhaps your teacher will allow you to make a box of your own design during the mathematics lesson.

Things to Find Out:

Where do we find reflection at work in other ways? Have a close look at a radiator. Can sound be reflected? What can you find out about the way in which radar works?





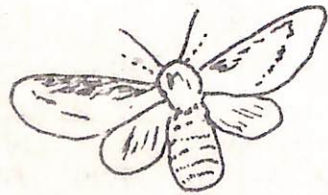
# things to look for in april

CATERPILLARS! There are so CATERPILLARS! many of them CATERPILLARS! around these days! Some of them are illustrated below, but because there are so many, you will need to look them up for yourself in the library.

The Vine Moth Caterpillar is easy to keep in the classroom. It feeds on grape vine leaves.

The Cup Moths get their name from the woody cocoon which looks like a little cup. When the lid is off, the moth has gone. The caterpillars are a flat shape with bright green and yellow colours.

There are a number of kinds of Cup Moths.

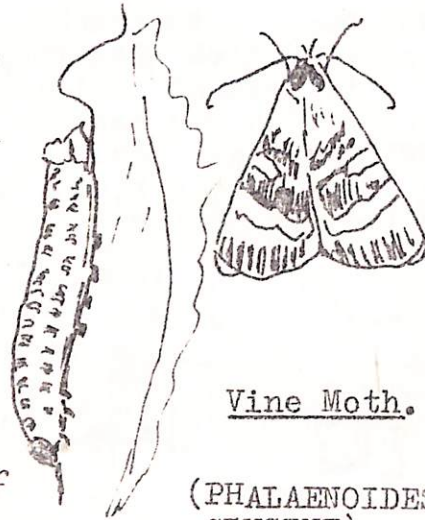


Female.



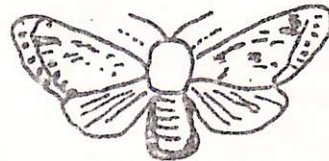
Male.

8. Painted Cup Moth, (LIMACODES LONGERANS).



Vine Moth.

(PHALAENOIDES GLYCINE).



Female



Male.

Mottled Cup Moth  
(DORATIFERA VULNERANS).

There are many kinds of Saw Flies, but the Gum Saw Fly is possibly the largest and most common. The caterpillars or larvae come together during the day and if they are disturbed they give off a greenish fluid from the mouth and a strong odour of the leaves upon which they have been feeding. The adult Gum Saw Fly is not so well known but may sometimes be found under and around eucalypt trees.

Do you know the Crusader Bug with its yellow markings forming a cross? It protects itself by a strong odour.

Of course you know this caterpillar. It is the Gum Emperor. But how well do you know it? How many legs has it? Are they all true legs? Are there some false legs? What do your caterpillars feed on? How about a letter to the editor on what you find out.

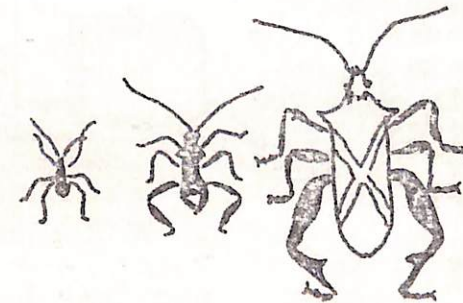


Gum Saw Fly.

(PERGA DORSALIS)

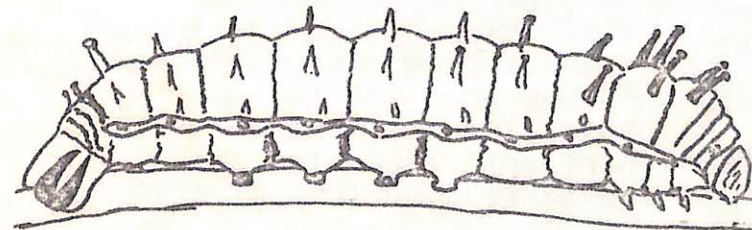


Adult Saw Fly.



Crusader Bug.

(MICTIS PROFANA).



Gum Caterpillar.



# in the

# news

## POLLUTION and PROGRESS.

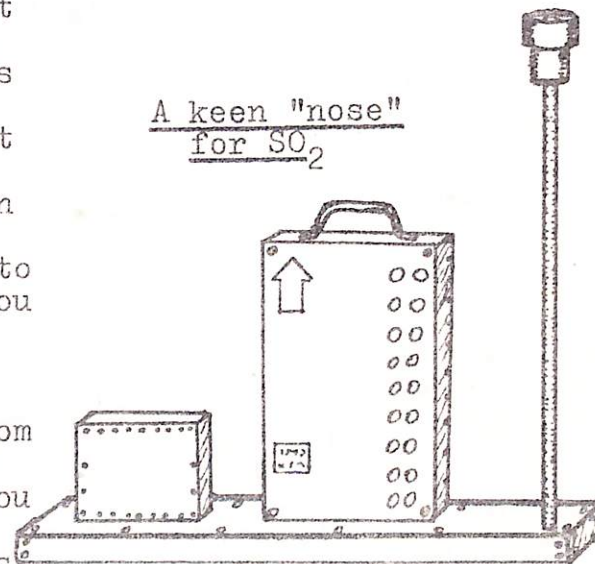
MANY PEOPLE are worried these days about the two words in this heading. This month I thought it would be a good idea if we had a look at some of the things that industry is doing to stop pollution and let progress go on without it.

As I was reading about this, I was surprised to see the variety of ways in which the men who control our factories are trying to deal with this problem. You could find out some more about this yourself; you could write letters to firms, invite speakers from firms, or you could be on the watch for this when you go on trips to firms.

Here is a list of ways in which some firms are facing this problem, and it shows the variety of the methods used.

ICI have designed their "Flocor" system for treating waste water. This uses a trickling filter to let the water pass over a lot of deposits of bacteria to clean the water.

PHILIPS have designed a machine for finding sulphur dioxide in the air.



ALCOA have a plant at Point Henry in Victoria, and they have put in a system called an electrostatic precipitator. This system cleans the stations flue gases, and as the firm says: "helps to keep the sky blue over Anglesea". SF say that the 74 precipitators that they have sold in Australasia collect 9,000 tons of dust per day.

HYPALON make synthetic rubber linings which firms can use to conserve water.

A very interesting system is the one designed by HOWDEN. They have designed a system to get rid of large amounts of garbage without adding to the pollution problem.

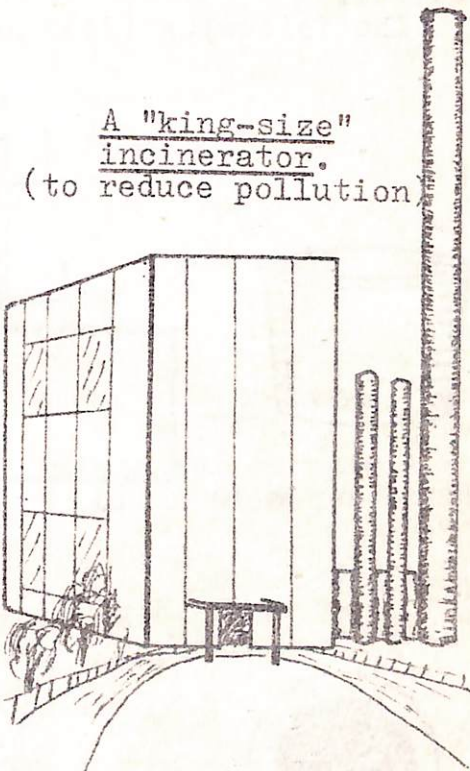
In this way, some firms have more to worry about than others. It is thought that forty-four million dollars is being paid each year towards the prevention of water pollution. The chemical industry and the paper-making industry are the ones with big problems here.

So you see, there is a lot that is being done about this problem. See what you can find out about it.

By the way, there is an interesting competition that your school can enter. It is the "1971 Keep Australia Beautiful - Mobil School Competition".

It is a chance for you to get together with your friends at school and clean up an odd corner in the school ground or in a nearby public park. There are prizes too. For more information, write to:

Mr. Rowe,  
P.O. Box 4507,  
Melbourne 3001. Telephone 62-0231.





# housing

Whether you are studying specimens at school or at home the problem of housing them will have to be solved.

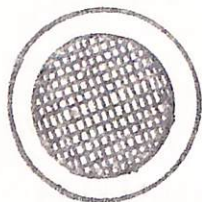
The following ideas may help you.



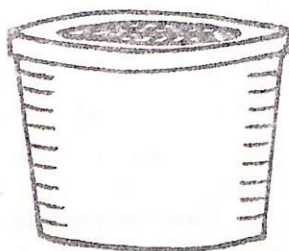
A plastic ice-cream container with a lid.



From the lid cut out a circle leaving a border of about one inch.



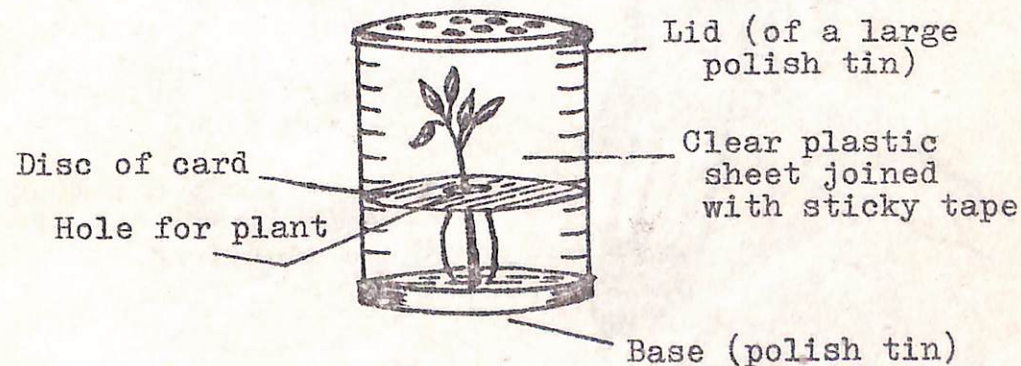
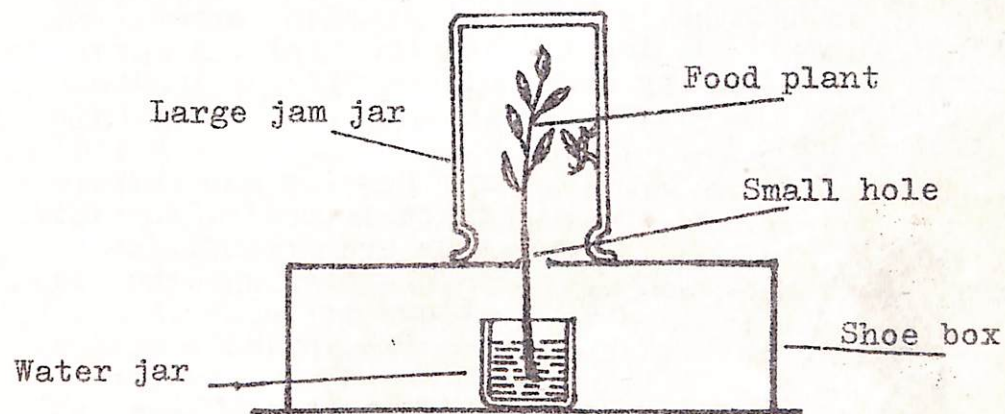
Obtain a piece of fly-wire or netting and staple it to cover the open lid.



Replace the lid and you have an inexpensive container for your caterpillars, snails, etc.

# specimens

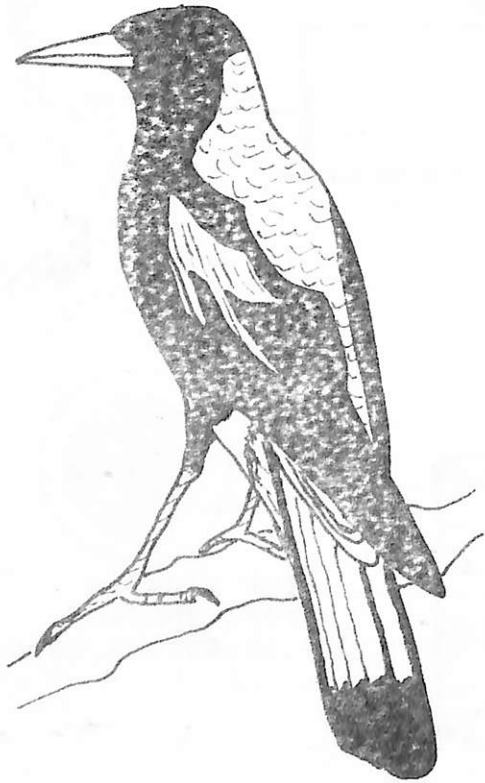
## OTHER INSECT CAGES.



# letters

An interesting letter was sent in this month by Ann Stafford of Grade 4d Blackburn Lake. Ann writes:  
Dear Editor,

On Sunday 14th. March my sister and I went to my Grandfather's house at Mitcham. After breakfast we went outside to feed the birds. A magpie who comes every morning came and ate off our hands. He came to eat off our hands six times. He lives in a tall tree nearby.



A White-backed Magpie.

Ed: Magpies can become quite friendly. Sometimes they are friendly to people they know but will attack strangers.

Did you know that there is more than one type of magpie? The one you saw was probably a white-backed magpie. Can you find out the names of the other kinds of magpies?

Watch some magpies closely;

How do they fly?  
What do they eat?  
What is their call?  
What do their nests look like?

It may take you a long time to answer all of these questions.

# prize letter

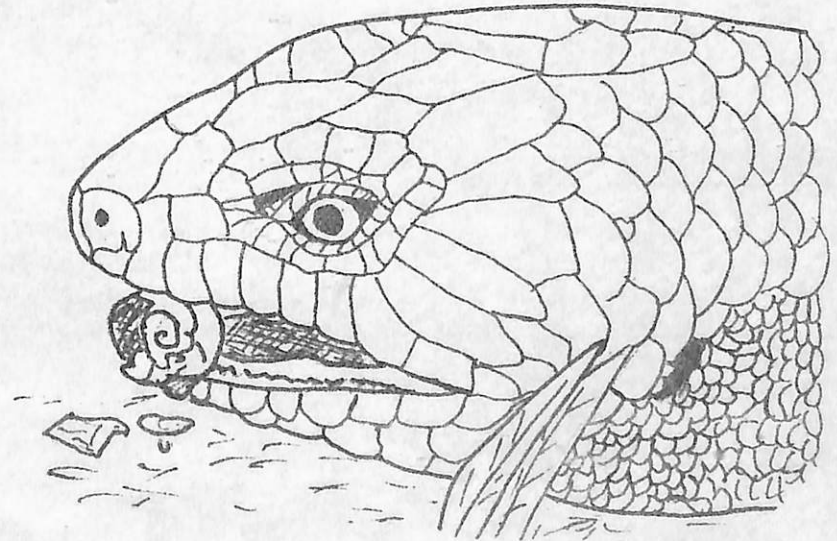
This month the prize goes to Dean Gordon of Laburnum Primary School. He writes:

Dear Editor,

I keep lizards. I used to have trouble feeding them until, one day, I let them have a run and one of them found a snail. I watched him open his mouth, put his head on the side, grasp it with his jaws and munch. The shell of the snail just fell off and the pieces that didn't he wiped off on the grass. He put his head on one side and wiped the dirt that he had collected on to the grass as he walked. After I had been giving the lizards their snails for a while, the snails just disappeared!

Could you tell me how to get snails? My lizards love them. It is, of course, not a good idea to give them snails which may have eaten any snail bait!

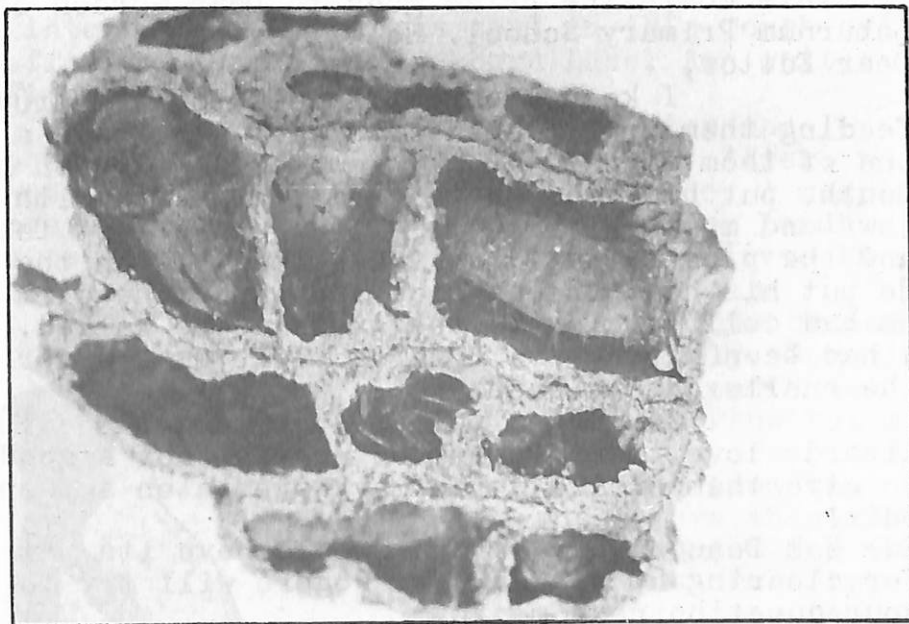
Ed: Yes Dean, every garden should have its pet lizards for clearing up snails. Mr. Rogers will try to answer your question next month.



Drawing supplied by Dean.



# what is it



The solution to this mystery photograph will be found in next month's issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NATURE NOTES COMMITTEE:

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
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| Vermont Primary School  | Blackburn Lake P.S. |
| 2. Mr. P. Rogers        | 5. Mr. I. Legg      |
| Lilydale Primary School | Blackburn Lake P.S. |
| 3. Mr. F. Tyrrell       |                     |
| Blackburn East Prim. S. |                     |

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