

Nature Notes

Ringwood Inspectorate

Volume 9

No. 4

TIGER CAT



TASMANIAN DEVIL

6 cents

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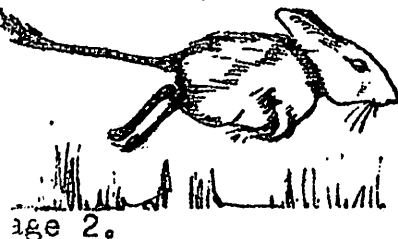
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a periodical.
CATEGORY B.



age 2.



? Last month's mystery
creature was a GUM
EMPEROR caterpillar.
Can you guess what
this queer object is?

A Letter to Girls & Boys..

I am sure you
enjoyed our new Puzzles Page last
month. It is hoped that this page
will become a regular feature in
future issues of Nature Notes. We
welcome Mr.Palmer as a contributor
and look forward to the enjoyment
his page offers. We are very lucky
to have such a team of voluntary
writers as we have. I'm sure you
appreciate their efforts as much
as I do.

The lucky winners of Book
Prizes so far this year are:

Mandy O'Callaghan,
Raoul Ney,
Bernise Brown.

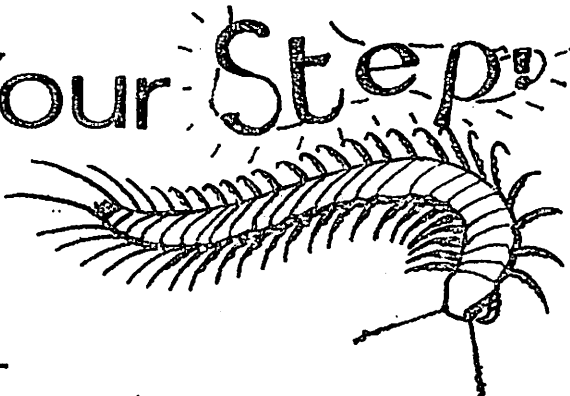
Unfortunately my mail bag has not
always been full. For this section
to be successful, it is important
that a lot of letters be received,
so why don't YOU put pen to paper
and try your luck. You too could
be the winner of a book.

Until next month,
H.J. Lawry.
(Editor)

Pictured opposite is
Mitchell's Hopping Mouse.
Isn't he cute?

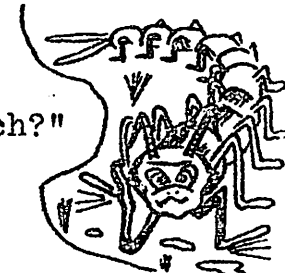
Watch Your Step!

The advice offered
in the above title is
easy for us for we have
but two legs. (bipeds)
But what about many leg-
ged creatures, the centipede (hundred legged) and
the millipede (thousand legged) for example ?



A poet once wrote that a frog threw the centipede
into quite a flurry on one occasion:

A centipede was happy quite
Until a frog in fun
Said, "Pray, which leg moves after which?"
This raised her mind to such a pitch,
She lay distracted in a ditch,
Considering how to run.



!!!!!!!
Seriously though, if you saw this frustrated
centipede I am sure you would not touch it because
you would know that it has front limbs that form
strong poisonous jaws at the head. Those last legs
are harmless "bluffing trailers", in case you
didn't know.

Can you think why the centipede has a
venomous bite?

See if you can find some specimens, but watch your
step when collecting! It might be a good plan to
have mother or father handy, just in case! In spite
of his bite, the centipede is really quite benefi-
cial.

The worm-like millipede has no poison jaws; its jaws are true jaws, not foot jaws. Hence the name of the order (Chilognatha) means jaw-jawed. (chielos - a jaw, gnathos a jaw) The centipede goes under the name Chilopoda (Chielos- a jaw and poda -with paws; a foot)

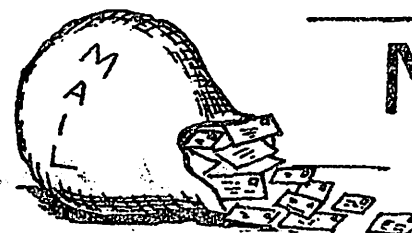
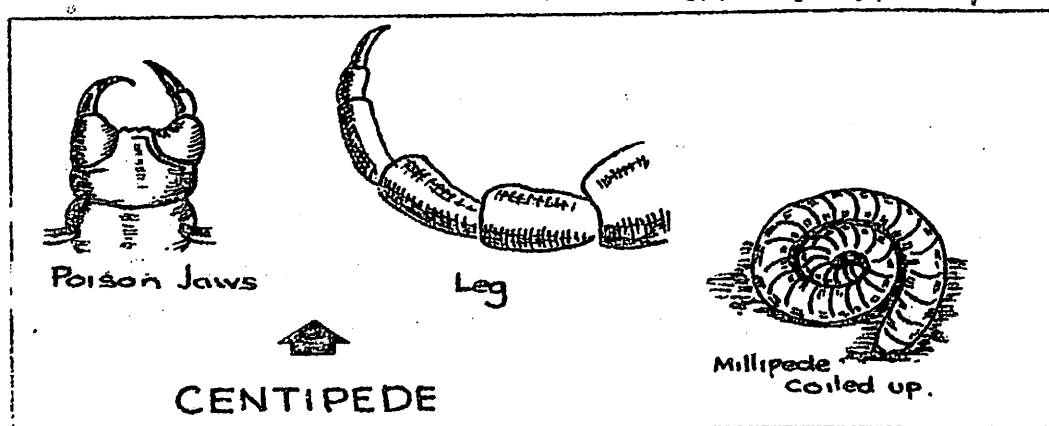
Can you offer any suggestions as to how a millipede might protect itself?

Can you discover what they eat?

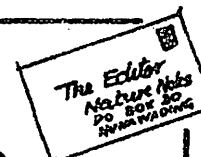
How are our lives going to be affected in the future by "milli" and "centi"?

FINALLY: WHAT GOES NINETY-NINE, PLONK. NINETY-NINE PLONK ? Oh, no Sir! After YOU!

Answer: a centipede with a wooden leg!

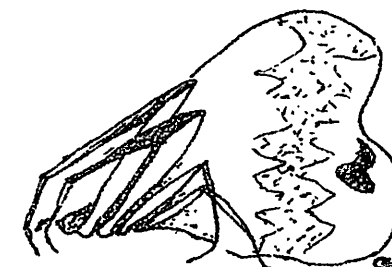


MAIL BAG



Dear Sir,

On Wednesday April 12 th. I found a Death's head Spider on a fence in the school-yard. This spider has several names- the one I have used above, Orchard Spider and Bird-dropping Spider. The spider's looks camouflage it from danger, for it doesn't look like a spider, but looks like a bird dropping. During the day the spider rests either on its eggs or on a branch and has no need to fear about anything attacking it. The colour is a creamy or dingy white and dull brown or black. The eggs are like small balloons among the threads. The spider is an angular shape.

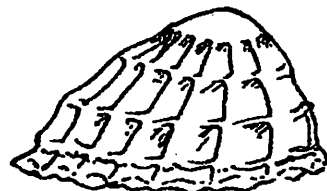
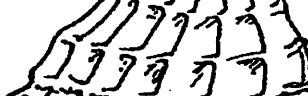


Robyn Crawford,
6A Vermont Primary School, No. 1022.

Thank you for your interesting observations, Robyn. I think the Death's Head Spider is one of the most amazing examples of camouflage in nature. If any of our other readers know of other remarkable examples, I hope they will share them with us too.(Editor)

★ THIS 'n THAT ★

● Last summer you probably found many strong conical shells attached to the rocks along the sea-shore. Can you guess the shell's name ? Yes ! Limpet is correct. They are one of our most numerous shells living at low-tide level. During the war years a weapon, (often used by frog-men) was named after the limpet.



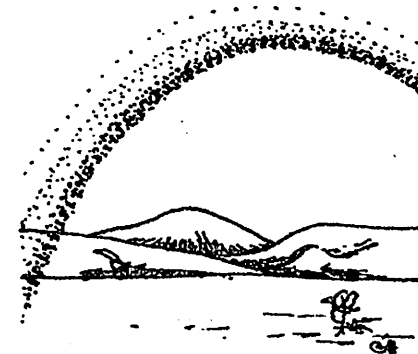
Can you discover what it is and why it is so called ?



● Why does a pilot wear a special suit for flying at high altitudes? The special suit grips his body at points where the blood would tend to rush. If a jet plane accelerated at great speed, the pilot's blood would rush to the lower parts of his body, rendering him unconscious. This is corrected by the pressurised suit.

Page 6.

● Did you know that rainbows are formed in a full circle ? We cannot see the whole circle because the horizon partly obscures our view. However, if you were in an air-craft flying high above the clouds you might be able to see a full circle rain-bow.



0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

● Have you ever held a large sea-shell to your ear to hear the sound of the sea ? This, of course, is not the sound you hear. The shell picks up faint sounds inside the ear which are magnified within the the shell ,producing the "roar" of the sea.



0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

● How well do you know your earth ?
Size: 260,000 cubic miles.
The Earth revolves around the sun at
18,000 miles a second.
The distance around the Earth at its
circumference is 25,000 miles.
5/7 of the Earth's surface is
water.



Nature Notes. June '72.

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Things To Look For -

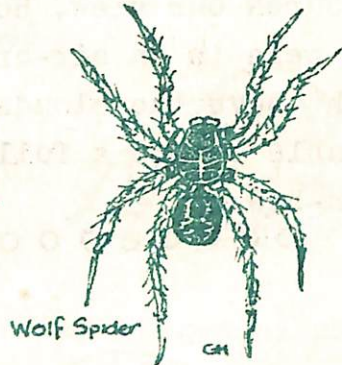
IN THE
GARDEN



There is so much to see in the garden that you will probably see many things.

* * * * *

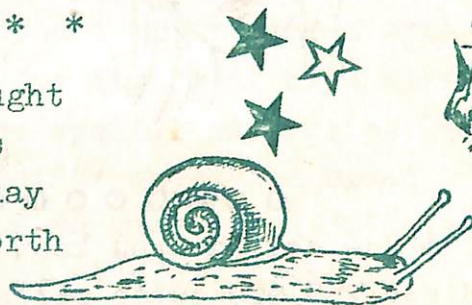
⊕ Spiders will be common at certain times of the year. The Wolf Spider races over the ground to catch its prey. It lives in a hole in the ground. You may see a mother carrying her young on her back. The Badge Spider is tan-coloured (about the size of a Huntsman) and has a brilliant shield badge on its tummy. Its bite can be very sore



Wolf Spider

* * * * *

⊕ The Garden Snail was brought to Australia to feed the birds which had been introduced. Today they do millions of dollars worth of damage every year.



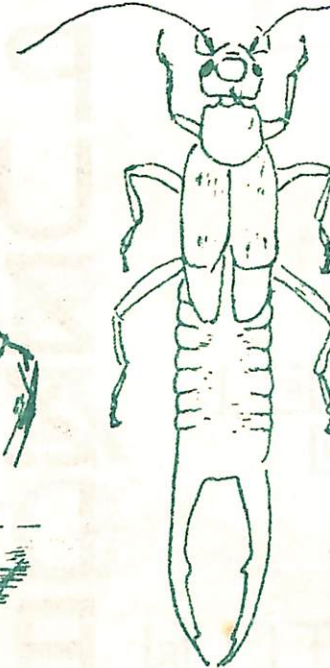
⊕ The Garden Slug also does a lot of damage in the garden. Perhaps you might find a Giant Slug. This slug is very fond of milk and when



extended may be nearly 3 inches long! Its name is Himax Maxima.

* * * *

⊕ Earwigs occur throughout the world and there are many kinds. Can you find more than one kind? Mother earwig looks after her eggs, an unusual occurrence among insects. The common earwig most often found in gardens is of European origin.

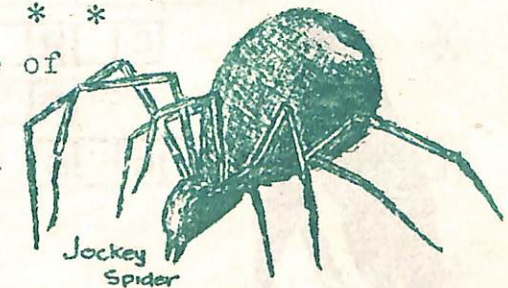


Earwig

⊕ Of course you know the Cabbage White Butterfly. See if you can tell a male from a female.

* * * * *

⊕ More about spiders. Beware of the Jockey Spider or Red-back Spider. It has a red stripe on its back and is very venomous. It is usually found around old tins in dark corners. The Leaf curling Spider is found easily, because it places a leaf in its web.



Jockey Spider

FILL THE GAPS WITH THE
NAMES OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

* * * * *



C _ _ _ _ W A _ Y

_ _ U

I _ _ S

_ U _ T _ D

K _ _ _ _ R _

Q _ A _

L _ _ _ E E

B I _ T _ N

C _ _ A _ _ G

_ _ N U I _

B _ D _ _ _ _ R

M _ _ I _

C _ R _ W

D _ E

W _ E _ S



P U N Z Z L E S



1. _ _ _ _ S

2. _ _ _ _ E

3. _ E _ _ _ _ _ _ _

4. _ _ _ I _ _ _ _

5. _ N _ _

6. _ _ _ G _



P A G E

1. Nocturnal creatures attracted by light.
2. A fruit and a colour as well.
3. Instrument to help you see.
4. An invention for seeing around corners.
5. Creature with eyes on stalks.
6. An optical illusion seen in deserts and plain country.



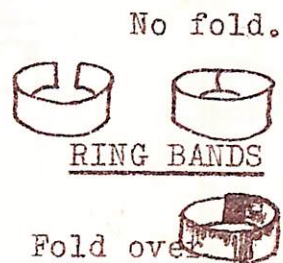
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BIRD BANDING

WHO CAN BAND BIRDS?

I obtained a banding licence from the C.S.I.R.O. After proving that I was good at identifying birds I was taught the correct way to put on bands. Some bands are like a split ring, others are flat. All must fit neatly but not tightly. A new bander must band under the care of an experienced worker.



WHO HELPS ME?

A bander needs helpers to catch the birds and hold them still while they are banded. School children over ten are good assistants. So are Boy Scouts. Of course other adults are good helpers too.

WHY DO WE BAND BIRDS ?

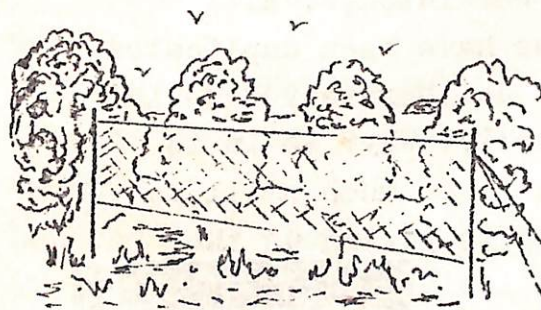
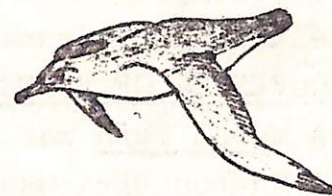
We do this so that the bird can be traced wherever it goes, often away to the other side of the world. We find out where birds migrate, how long they live, when they get full plumage, and how old they are when they breed.

WHAT BIRDS TO BAND ?

I choose to band sea birds because I live at the sea. Silver Gulls are very easy to band. We use



gloves when banding Shearwaters (Mutton Birds) because they are strong birds which bite and scratch. When they land on their breeding islands they cannot fly off again because their wings are too long to flap on the hilly bumps of the dunes. They run away, but we soon catch them. Gannets nest on islands: our nearest is Lawrence Rock near Portland. They sit still on the nest till we catch them, but they are huge birds and must be held firmly because the long pointed beak can cut quite severely.



Fairy Prions and Diving Petrels nest on Lady Julia Percy Island. We catch them in mist nets, which are ten feet high. Made of fine nylon, these nets are invisible

to the birds. When they fly into them they become trapped in the fine silk mesh.

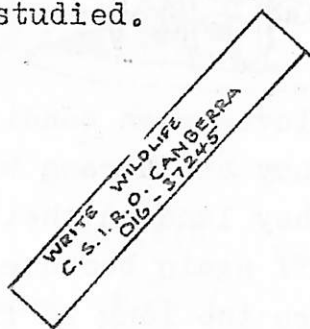
OTHER BIRDS TO BAND.

Some banders like to work on Swamp Birds- mostly young birds still in nests among rushes or reeds. Other banders work with Bush Birds. The Flame



Robin is being extensively banded and studied.
HOW CHILDREN CAN HELP.

Children have helped by sending in bands found on dead birds. This gives us the data we need. The address of the C.S.I.R.O. is on all bands, but the date and place found is needed.



SOME RECOVERIES OF BIRDS Banded IN PORT FAIRY.

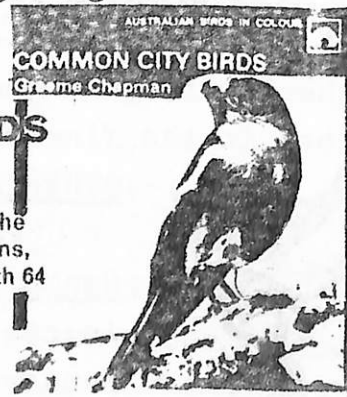
A Marsh Tern was shot in New Guinea

A Mutton Bird was caught on a fishing line in Japan .

A White Ibis was burnt in a cane fire in Northern Queensland.

A White Faced Storm Petrel banded on Mud Island landed on a ship near Geraldton, W. A.

Some of these recoveries have been duplicated many times showing that birds deliberately take long trips to other countries annually. Why? Is it to follow food or weather? There is so much still to learn about birds, but banding is giving us the answers.



Remember, a Periwinkle Book Prize is offered for the best letter to the Editor each month. This month's winner is Robyn Crawford

COMMON CITY BIRDS
Graeme Chapman

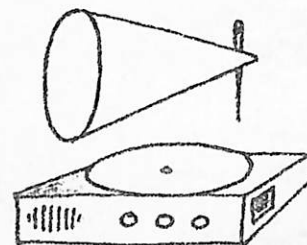
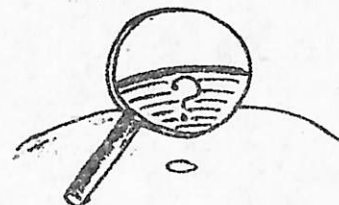
An identification guide to some of the common birds seen around the towns, cities and suburbs of Australia. With 64 full-colour photographs.

★ HEAR! HEAR!

Part Two.

STORING SOUNDS FOR LATER LISTENING.

Can we store sounds for later? I'm sure you will mention tapes and records. Records are worth examining under a microscope or magnifying glass. What do you notice?



SOMETHING TO MAKE - YOUR OWN PICK-UP.

Make a cone of drawing paper. Pierce the end with a sewing needle. Using an OLD record try out your own listening device.

See if you can find out how a Tape Recorder works.

MORE THINGS TO FIND OUT:

In what ways are echoes useful to man?

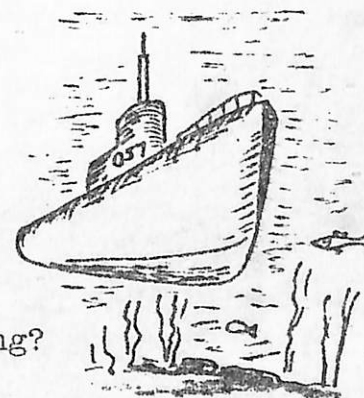
How can deaf people be helped?

Who was the famous musical composer who continued his work in spite of the loss of his hearing?

How does a whistle work?

MAKE A LIST OF OCCUPATIONS WHICH REQUIRE EXCELLENT HEARING.

Nature's creatures provide fascinating examples of some strange hearing devices. Snakes are deaf to



sounds carried by air but they hear by sensing vibrations. That is why most snakes get out of your way if you make sufficient noise as you approach.

How then do Indian Snake-charmers trick the people in the audience?

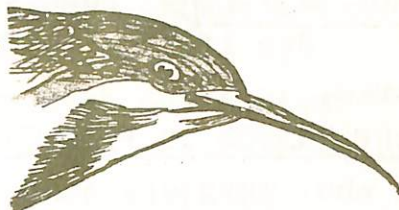
Kangaroos are very alert, aren't they? They stand upright and revolve their ears to pick up sounds of danger.

Caterpillars hear with hairs scattered over the whole body.



Cockroaches hear with their tails.

Finally, Birds have very sharp hearing. They do not have an outer ear as we do, but everything else is much the same.



We will conclude Mr. Tyrrell's interesting series on Sound and Hearing next month. (Editor)





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NATURE NOTES MAY BE COLLECTED FROM THE DEPOTS ON THE
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS NOTIFIED OF CHANGE.