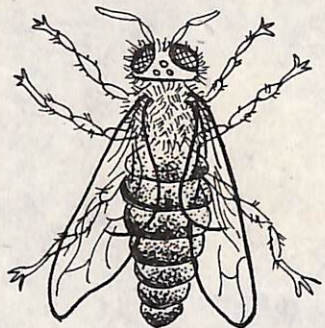




probe

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BEEES



Up to 25,000 bees can live in a SWARM. Most bees are workers. They—

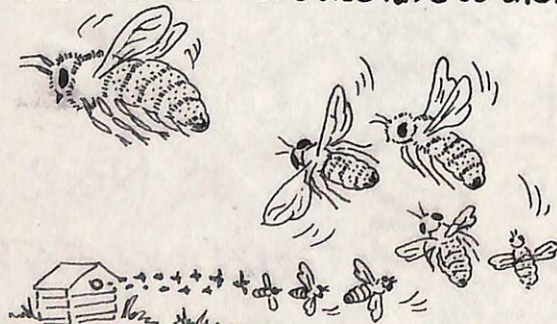
- * Keep the hive clean,
- * make honey from pollen and nectar, and store it in cells in the comb.
- * 'Nurses' feed the babies.
- * 'Scouts' look for Pollen and nectar.
- * Feed the QUEEN with Royal Jelly from their heads.

Worker bees only live 4-6 weeks but the QUEEN can live for 4 years. She is the largest bee and her job is to lay eggs.

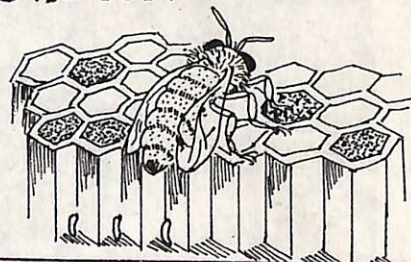


A WORKER THE QUEEN A DRONE

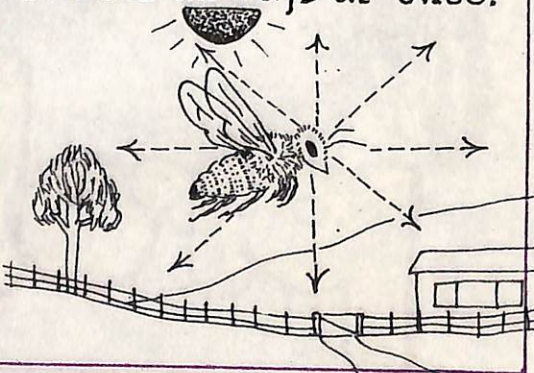
DRONES are males who don't work. The fastest flying DRONE mates with the QUEEN and then dies. Because they don't work, when winter comes the drones are driven from the hive to die.



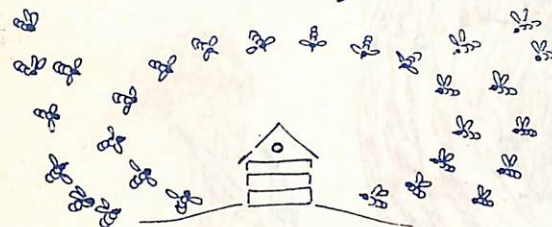
The eggs are laid in special cells. The larva are fed first with ROYAL JELLY and then with honey by the 'nurses'.



Bees have 3 small single eyes and 2 large COMPOUND eyes which are like 12,000 single eyes. They let the bee see all ways at once.



When young bees come out of the hive for the first time, they face it while flying in ever widening circles to know how it looks from all angles.



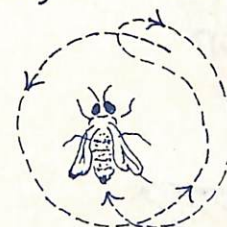
Even from 1½ KM away bees know exactly where their hive is and fly in a straight line towards it.



This is a BEE LINE-----

When a 'scout' finds nectar it returns to the hive and DANCES on a comb. This dance shows the other bees exactly where to find the nectar. They can smell what kind of nectar to look for.

A ROUND dance shows that the nectar is within 100 metres of the hive and will be easy to find.



A WAGGLE dance tells bees the nectar is up to 1½ Km's away. The speed and direction of the dance shows exactly where the nectar is, and how to get there.



FIND OUT :

Why bees die when they sting people but not when they sting other insects.

Do any other insects have COMPOUND eyes ? What would it be like if you had COMPOUND eyes ?

How bees keep cool in summer and warm in winter.

About the bees dances. How do they show exactly where the honey is and how to find it ?

BOOKS ABOUT BEES.

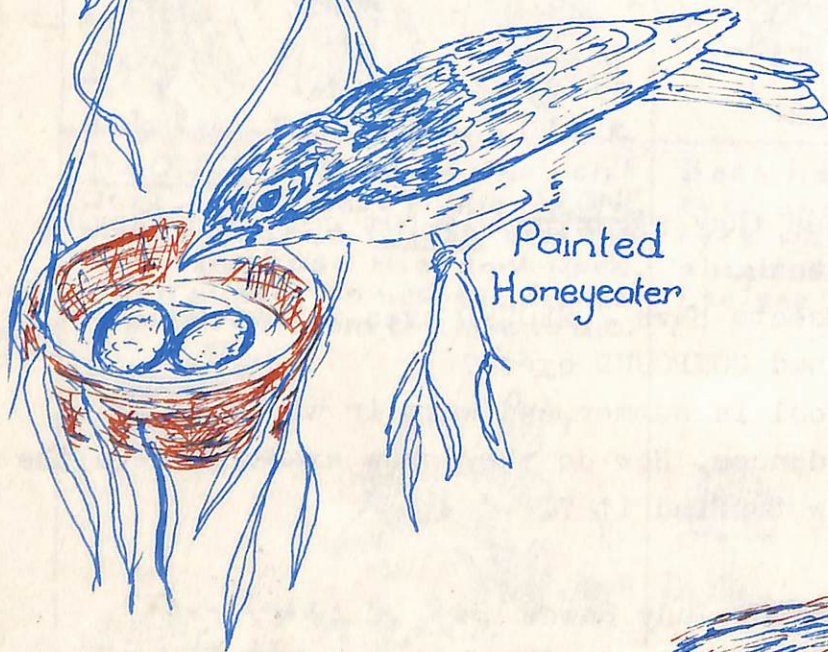
Bees and Beelines by Judy Hawes

Junior True Book of Honeybees by John Lewellen

NESTS.



Superb Blue Wren



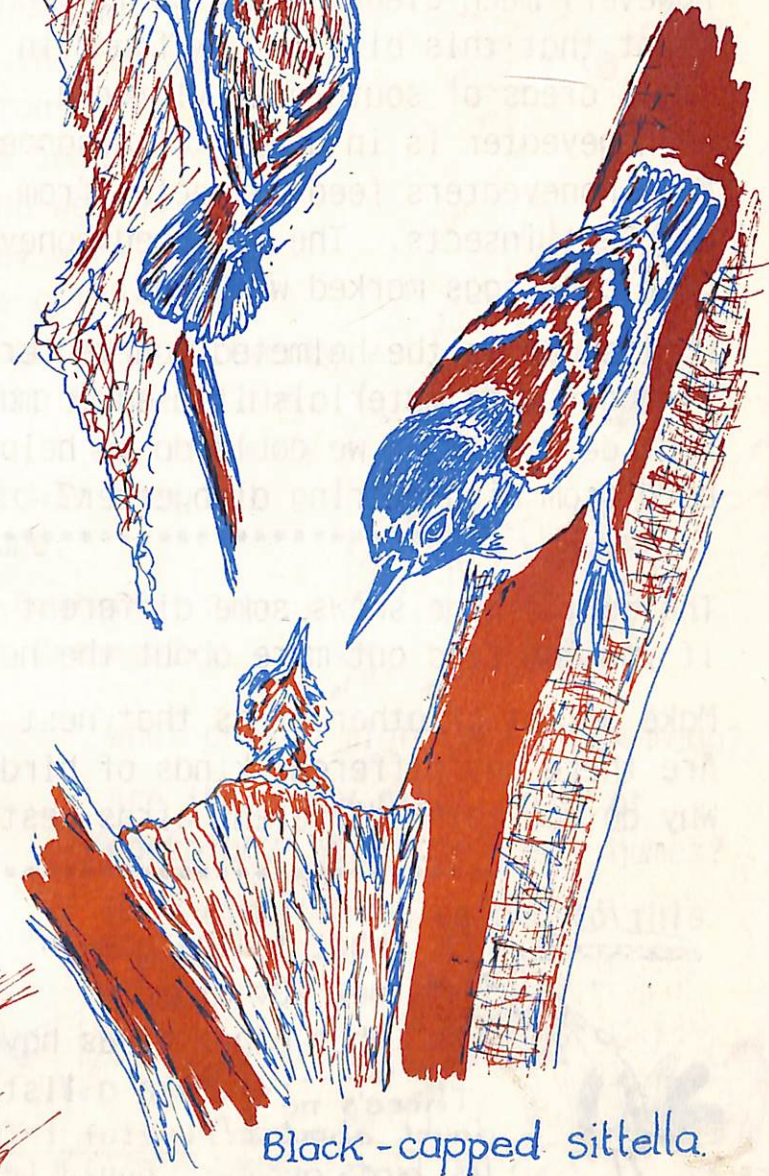
Painted Honeyeater



Emu
with chick



Western Warbler



Black-capped Sittella

This Month's Cover the Helmeted Honeyeater.

The helmeted honeyeater is truly a Victorian bird. However, much clearing for farming and recreation has meant that this bird is now found in only one or two small areas of south-east Victoria. Thus, this species of honeyeater is in danger of disappearing (extinction). Most honeyeaters feed on nectar from flowers, but they also eat insects. The helmeted honeyeater lays two pale pink eggs marked with red.

What shape is the helmeted honeyeater's nest?
Find out what materials it uses to make its nest.
What do you think we could do to help stop this rare bird from disappearing altogether?

The centre page shows some different kinds of nest. See if you can find out more about the nests of these birds.

Make a list of other birds that nest in a similar way.
Are there any different kinds of bird nests?
Why do you think different birds nest in different ways?

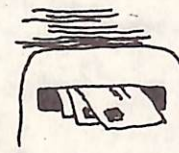


What is the name of the bird on the new 20¢ stamp?
What other birds have appeared on stamps?

There's no doubt about it!
Us birds are something Special!

Make a list.
Useful references.

Could League (Vic.) handbooks.
What Bird is That? N. Cayley.
Reader's Digest Book of Birds.



MAILBOX

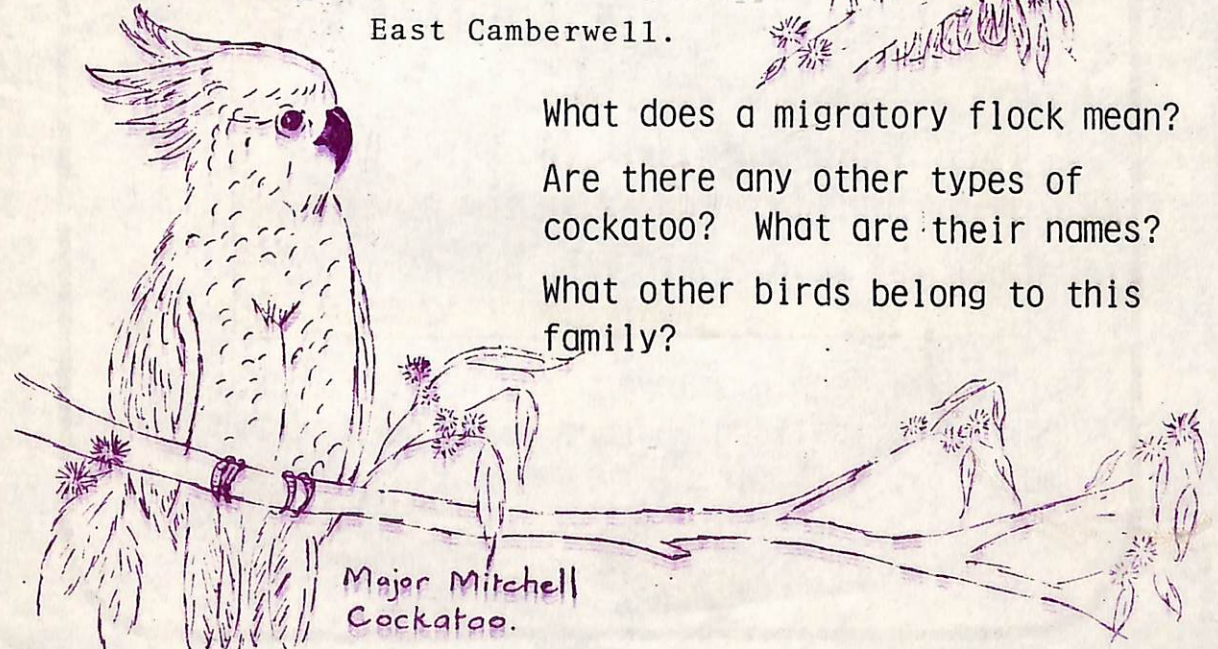
Dear Probe,

On Sunday, 4th June, my friend and I were playing in the backyard when we saw two cockatoos. We thought that they were someone's pets, but as we looked around we saw more and more of them. They were sulphur-crested cockatoos. We climbed onto the garage roof and counted over twenty. They were feeding on the seeds of the pine trees around us. It was probably a migratory flock. Slowly they all flew away in a "V" shape.

Angela Savage, St. Dominics' School
East Camberwell.



Sulphur-crested
Cockatoo



Major Mitchell
Cockatoo.

What does a migratory flock mean?
Are there any other types of cockatoo? What are their names?
What other birds belong to this family?

Puzzles

SEARCH - A - WORD : BIRDS.

Find the hidden words by reading: forwards, backwards, down, up and sideways.

M	S	D	U	C	K	M	A	G	P	I	E
R	V	S	O	R	P	X	Z	F	A	U	V
O	E	M	S	O	L	K	L	W	R	E	N
B	F	V	M	W	P	O	J	T	R	K	S
I	T	C	O	C	K	A	T	O	O	M	F
N	B	V	X	L	Z	M	R	N	T	O	I
P	I	I	F	T	P	E	L	I	C	A	N
O	U	X	S	E	V	O	A	S	P	U	C
V	M	F	J	R	A	X	R	K	W	A	H
H	E	R	O	N	K	A	K	F	P	R	S

Word list: magpie, plover, robin ibis, cockatoo, duck, wren, pelican, heron, tern, hawk, lark, emu, crow, owl, finch.



Artists: S. Jowett,
J. Leonard, W. Prohasky,
P. Whitwell.