

day (Sunday) little wifey worked like a galley slave, hubby not taking any part whatever in the actual construction of the home, only putting in an appearance when at one stage some worms collected by the writer had been placed in a handy position. He was probably doing his duty in the offing sorting out the best material for the abode. By the following morning at 8 o'clock cobwebs, moss, and dry beech leaves had been so assiduously collected and woven together that the busy housewife was out of sight in the nest. Next week-end saw the nest completed. On neither the Saturday nor the Sunday was a sign to be seen of either Mr. or Mrs. Tomtit, although the former could be heard warbling away merrily in the distance. The birds' absence enabled a close inspection of the nest to be made, and it was wonderful how securely it was fastened to the supporting beam and to the rough, plastered wall of the house, the mass of spider web no doubt being the holding agency. It may here be mentioned that the nest was at a distance of about 8 feet from the opened window of a bathroom, and it was from this vantage point that observations were mostly made day and night, the latter being possible by means of the electric light. On the Sunday night (November 6th) an inspection in the early evening disclosed one egg. On the following Wednesday night there were 4 eggs in the nest, and the little wife had apparently commenced to sit. For the next 18 days she sat closely, leaving only to get the food necessary for her existence. Never once was it observed that she was relieved by her lord and master, but to his infinite credit be it said, day after day, wet or fine, he fed his mate and never once did he come to the nest to do so. The process of feeding adopted was no doubt designed to prevent the nest with its precious contents being observed. It consisted of hubby, after he had collected the worm or insect, flying to an overhanging tree directly opposite the nest about 30 feet away, and there giving, in lieu of his usual warble which was almost continuous throughout the day, a subdued whistle, when quick as a flash wifey left the nest and the pair met in a sheltered patch of manuka some 40 feet away in another direction. All day long this went on, something like an average of 20 minutes separating the meetings on the days of observation. On one occasion the interval was only 10 minutes. And if by any chance the writer or other person was where he could be seen from the nest, the little wife would not return thereto until there was no one in sight. An interesting incident during the sitting period was the feeding by the male bird of another young male bird which was observed on two occasions to intercept the former on his regular visits to his spouse with satisfactory results. On the evening of 26th November (Saturday) during a view of the nest about 9 p.m. hubby was seen to be