



**WHITE-CAPPED** noddie tern and fledgling on a typically bedraggled nest

the gathering at sunset of tens of thousands of white-capped noddies to rest in the big trees until daylight came, and they could go off to their feeding places beyond the reefs. I had to wait till I returned to the mainland to get them identified, but they remain my most pleasant memory of the only coral reef I am likely to see at close range.

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MY chief difficulty as a bird watcher in Australia is not to see the birds but to identify them. Even with Cayley's admirable *Guide to the Birds of Australia* I see six birds for every two that I can get away from the crows, the kites, the wag-tails, the peewees, the herons, the pelicans,

**JULY 27** the swallows, the water-hens, the kookaburras, the ibises, the parrots, and the cockatoos. I am very easily lost, and can't be sure that what I am looking at today was not seen yesterday or the day before. I can, however, be sure of an emu when I see one, and I had the good luck the first day I went inland to see a family of five—two full-grown and three half-grown—cross the road a couple of chains ahead of us and stand not many yards away from us as we drove past.

(To be continued)

### Black Moths

"AT least forty-six species of our British moths have become black in our industrial areas within the last century, a change which nature would normally bring about in time measurable in thousands of years," said Dr. Bernard Kettlewell, of the Department of Zoology at Oxford University, talking in the BBC's *Eye Witness*. Dr. Kettlewell has been working on this aspect of evolution in his laboratory. He has been able to show the advantages gained by these new black forms of moths, their capacity for survival and greater hardiness in the presence of bad feeding."

—BBC "London Letter."

### MSS. WANTED

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