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## SHORT NOTE

### DUNKING BY PETROICA

In October 1968 Mr. B. Ward and I made a trip into the Goulund Downs area (N.W. of Nelson). On 12/10/68 we observed a Yellow-breasted Tit feeding its young alongside the Cave creek. It would catch an insect and each time before offering it to the young bird, fly down to a boulder in the creek and dunk the insect in the water.

It was obviously a deliberate series of actions, catching the insect, flying to the creek, dunking it in the water and only then taking it to its young in the branches above.

I have been unable to find a record of such behaviour in any of the Petroica species.

— H. F. HEINEKAMP