

## PODICEPS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ (Black-throated Grebe).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvi., p. 519; Gould's Handbook, vol. ii., p. 513, sp. 667.

Two floating nests of these birds were found, one on 24th March, and the other on 8th April, containing three and two eggs respectively. The nests were, as usual, built of green water weeds in a swamp, very little above the level of the water. The eggs are white when first laid, but soon become a kind of stone colour, being stained by the wet weed of which the nest is composed. They are elongated, and measure—(1) 1.50 x .91; (2) 1.38 x .92; (3) 1.39 x .95 inches.

## ANSERANAS SEMIPALMATA (Pied Goose).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvii., p. 44; Gould's Handbook, vol. ii., p. 352, sp. 579.

These birds are plentiful in the Northern Territory, where they have not been much disturbed by man, and many of their nests were found, generally situated on the masses of bulrushes that lie over and form a kind of platform above the water, the nests themselves being made of rushes and reeds. All the nests were found in March, and the average clutch numbered ten eggs. They are a light cream colour, slightly glossy and the shell pitted. The older birds seem to lay larger eggs than those breeding for the first time, and I now give the measurements of half a clutch of the older birds and also half a clutch of the younger ones:—Old—A, (1) 2.90 x 2.08, (2) 2.78 x 2.14, (3) 2.99 x 2.10, (4) 2.94 x 2.08, (5) 2.84 x 2.11 inches. Young—B, (1) 2.48 x 1.90, (2) 2.73 x 1.93, (3) 2.76 x 2.0, (4) 2.80 x 1.94, (5) 2.72 x 1.95 inches.

## ANAS SUPERCILIOSA (Black Duck).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvii., p. 206; Gould's Handbook, vol. ii., p. 363, sp. 585.

These well-known birds are also plentiful, and seem to build in various places—on the ground under shrubs, in hollows in trees, or in old Crows' nests. The number of the clutch varies from nine to twelve. The eggs are smooth, and of a greenish-cream colour, and a clutch of five measures—(1) 2.13 x 1.60; (2) 2.16 x 1.63; (3) 2.30 x 1.61; (4) 2.22 x 1.61; (5) 2.22 x 1.70 inches. By far the larger number of clutches were found in May, but a few in March and April.

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A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Donnybrook, states that the Laughing Jackasses which were liberated there some time back have nested and have two young ones flying about with them. It is the same case a few miles further off, where a small colony of liberated Jackasses have established themselves, and are now surrounded by their small ones.—*West Australian*, 10/12/02.