

eggs). On the big swamp thousands of *Microtribonyx* were running in all directions. They were not nesting, and many seemed to be moulting. A few Black-throated Grebes (*Podiceps novæ-hollandiæ*) and Pink-eared Ducks (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) were on the swamp. All the surrounding sand-hills were littered with traces of aboriginal camps—circles of stones and burned earth and charcoal, flints and grinders.

Several Whistling Eagles were sailing over and around the swamp, and also a pair of Harriers (*C. gouldi*), the first that I have noted up this way. I went off to the right over a sand-hill into country covered with scattered shrubby bushes. A nest of the Black-faced Wood-Swallow (*A. melanops*) was found about 4 feet from the ground, in a small, stunted tree; it contained three eggs. Later I met our camp-keeper out after the horses; he told me that he had found two 'Tricoloured Chats' nests, each containing three young birds, and a nest of the Brown Song-Lark with three eggs. M'Lennan turned up with a seven clutch of Short-billed Crow's eggs; he also brought the lining of the nest, which consisted of the silk of the trap-door spider, which I kept for Dr. Pulleine, of Adelaide, who is interested in such things.

We packed up and went on past Fowler's Gap to the old dam and well on Caloola Creek, where we camped. Searching the scrubby flat along the creek we found Black Honey-eaters (*Myzomela nigra*) and Pied Honey-eaters (*Certhionyx variagatus*) busy feeding on the blossoms of the honeysuckle-tree (*Eremophila longifolia*) and of the tobacco-bush (*Nicotiana glauca*), in company with "Greenies" and Miners. Tricoloured Chats were dodging about the herbage and fallen, dead acacias, and every now and then a Rufous Song-Lark would rise, singing, from the ground, to some more commanding perch, where the alarm note would be given to the brooding female to steal away.

Description of a New Crow-Shrike.

BY J. W. MELLOR, A.O.U., ADELAIDE.

PLUMAGE uniform dusky-brown or brownish-black, somewhat darker on the wings and tail. Four outer feathers on each side of tail broadly tipped with white, while on the two centre feathers the white is all but absent; under tail coverts white.

Wings.—Basal portion of inner web of primaries white, showing a large patch of white when the wing is extended; the outer web of primaries black, edged with greyish-white, the primaries and secondaries being slightly tipped with white.

Irides bright yellow. Legs, feet, and bill black.

Total length, 20 inches; tarsi, 3 inches; bill, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by 1 inch deep, forming a strong instrument for securing food, which consists chiefly of insects.

The female is so similar in colouration that dissection is necessary to determine the sex.

On account of the general dusky-brown appearance of the plumage, I propose the name of Brown Crow-Shrike (*Strepera fusca*), as suggested by the South Australian Ornithological Association at a meeting held on 12th May, 1905.

The descriptions are taken from birds collected by me on Eyre Peninsula during a trip in October, 1899, and again while conducting the scientific expedition during the ninth congress of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, at Warunda Creek, Central Eyre Peninsula, in October, 1909. On both occasions I was accompanied by Capt. S. A. White, of the Reedbeds, near Adelaide, who also secured specimens. The birds on both occasions were seen principally in the timbered country, where their notes rang out clearly in the frosty mornings.

The birds resemble mostly *Strepera plumbea* of Western Australia, but are more dusky-coloured in general appearance, and show a greater amount of white in the wing.

Locality.—Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.

The nest is similar to the general class of *Strepera* nests, composed of sticks, lined inside with finer fibrous substance, which makes a neat cup-shaped hollow.

The eggs are three in number. A clutch taken at "Kapinka," Stokes, in the Koppio Ranges, in Central Eyre Peninsula, on 15th September, 1898 (now in my collection), may be described as follows:—General ground colour light creamy-brown, much lighter in appearance than the eggs in general of the *Strepera* family; the markings are fine spots of light brown and purplish-brown, the latter spots appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell, the markings being more numerous at the larger end. Eggs elongated in shape, and tapering gradually towards the smaller end. Texture of the shell moderately fine, with a somewhat glossy surface. Dimensions in inches:—(1) 1.70 x 1.18, (2) 1.62 x 1.12, (3) 1.52 x 1.12.

Victorian Sericornes.

By A. G. CAMPBELL, POMONAL, VICTORIA.

(Read before the Bird Observers' Club, 14th April, 1910.)

MR. Gregory M. Mathews, in a recent letter to me, wished for some reliable observations on two Victorian species of Sericornes—*S. frontalis* and *S. osculans*.

The Australian Museum authorities, it appears, have recently stated that the two species are but one, and represent, one the mature, and the other the immature stage. With this I cannot agree. There has to my mind always been an obscurity in the genus, and for this reason I have been collecting data and material for some years and from various parts of the State. I will now state this much, however—that is, that I believe that there are two