

rocky Grampian Range in Victoria, is not identical with the bird inhabiting the luxuriant scrubs of the Bellenden-Ker Range in tropical Queensland. No doubt ornithological students will agree to separate the northern bird under the suggestive name of *subchrysops*, with a wing-measurement of 2.9 inches, as against 3.2 inches for that of a typical *chrysops*.

***Piezorhynchus alecto* (Temminck).**

Mr. White's enterprise has won yet another bird, which, although known, is new for the continent.

Although not altogether a surprise, it is interesting to discover the New Guinea Shining Flycatcher at Cape York, where Mr. White's specimens (♂ and ♀) were obtained.

As the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, in the "Catalogue of Birds," British Museum (vol. iv., p. 415), states:—"The Australian bird (*P. nitidus*) differs from *P. alecto* in possessing a much longer and thinner bill, while the females are thus contrasted—*alecto*, mantle light chestnut, like the back; *nitidus*, mantle dark ashy, shaded with the purple colour of the head, and separating the latter from the back, which is dark chestnut."

Mr. Gregory Mathews, in *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, No. clxxi., described last year a Shining Flycatcher from the Cooktown district under the name *P. nitidus wardelli*, and remarks the adult male differs from the typical *P. nitidus* in "having a shorter and wider bill, the general colour deeper, and the measurements slightly larger."

While camped at Cardwell, August, 1885, I obtained a pair of Shining Flycatchers (now in the National Museum, Melbourne), which agrees with Mr. Mathews' Cooktown specimens so far as the description of bill is concerned.

Description of Eggs of Lesser Satin Bower-Bird (*Ptilonorhynchus minor*, Campbell).

BY H. L. WHITE, R.A.O.U., BELLTREES, N.S.W.

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Types.—Eggs oval in shape; surface of shell slightly glossy, and under the lens minute pittings like pin-pricks appear all over the shell, thus rendering it slightly granular. Ground colour light cream, beautifully blotched and spotted all over, particularly at the larger ends, with reddish-brown, umber, purplish-grey and slaty markings; the last two colours appear as if beneath the surface of the shell, and predominate in both eggs. The pair measure in inches:—(a) 1.70 x 1.10, (b) 1.68 x 1.11.

Taken by Mr. Geo. Sharp, at Evelyn scrubs, Cairns district, North Queensland, 26th November, 1908.

Co-Types.—Eggs slightly more swollen than those of the type

set; surface of shell minutely pitted all over, and having but little gloss. In shape pointed ovals. Ground colour (a) light cream, (b) light yellowish-cream, sparingly spotted and blotched, chiefly at the larger ends, with umber and reddish-brown, also purplish-grey and slaty markings appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. The pair measure in inches :—(a) 1.73 x 1.15, (b) 1.74 x 1.17.

Taken by Mr. Geo. Sharp, at Cedar Creek, near Evelyn, Cairns district, North Queensland, 3rd November, 1908.

In a series of seven sets of two eggs each, two pairs only have the ground colour of a darkish cream. This series when placed beside those of the southern bird (*P. violaceus*) are readily separated, the eggs of *P. minor* being smaller, not so swollen in shape, and of a much paler ground colour. Again, in the markings spots and blotches only occur, there being no lines, as is often the case with the eggs of the southern form.

Description of Eggs of *Ninox strenua* (Gould).

By H. L. WHITE, R.A.O.U., BELLTREES, N.S.W.

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ON page 48 of "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," Mr. A. J. Campbell describes an egg from the Adelaide Museum, supposed to be that of *Ninox strenua*, but he observes :—"However, we shall welcome any information giving a description of a complete set."

In view of the measurements of the eggs described below, I think the Adelaide Museum specimen is most probably that of *Ninox rufa*, Gould, as it corresponds in size with specimens of the eggs of that species in my collection. The eggs of *Ninox strenua* have up to the present time been on the *desiderata* list of every Australian oologist; for my own part I had almost given up hope of ever obtaining them. However, through the kindness of Mr. Rowland Archer, of Tooradin, Victoria, I have his permission to describe the eggs, besides becoming the proud possessor of a specimen of the type set, Mr. Archer retaining the others.

The eggs, three in number, were taken by James Franks, a collector for Mr. Archer, from the spout of a tree growing in dense scrub, near Kingaroy, north of Brisbane, Queensland, on the 23rd November, 1911, the parent bird being clearly identified. The eggs are of typical *Ninox* shape, being almost round: the shell is pure white, close grained and glossy, with a few limy excrescences scattered over the surface; one specimen has a number of shallow longitudinal grooves or creases running the whole length of the shell.

Measurements in inches :—(a) 2.29 x 1.94, (b) 2.23 x 1.9, (c) 2.15 x 1.91.

Note.—Specimen *a* is in H. L. White's collection, *b* and *c* in that of Rowland Archer.