

Descriptions of New Australian Birds' Eggs.

By H. L. WHITE, R.A.O.U. (SCONE, N.S.W.)

ASTUR (?) (*Urospiza fasciata didima*, Mathews), Northern Goshawk.

Nest a large structure of sticks and small branches, lined with leaves, placed high up in a swamp gum (*Eucalyptus*) tree.

Eggs three, roundish-oval in shape; texture of shell coarse, without gloss; colour chalky bluish-white (green inside). One specimen (a) is sparingly marked all over with large reddish-purple blotches; a second (b) has a few irregular-shaped markings, including short lines, of the same colour; while the third (c) specimen has no markings. Measurements:—(a) 1.67 x 1.38, (b) 1.6 x 1.42, (c) 1.55 x 1.33.

Taken by H. G. Barnard, 28/10/13, near Borrooloola, Macarthur River, Northern Territory. Parent birds identified by Mr. G. M. Mathews.

A second clutch, taken in the same locality by the same collector, is more uniform in colour (one specimen only being marked with a few short lines) and larger, measurements being—(a) 1.78 x 1.45, (b) 1.81 x 1.37, (c) 1.75 x 1.44.

AMYTORNIS WHITEI (*Mytisa striata whitei*), Mathews.

Securing a clutch of *Amytornis* eggs is always a very welcome event in the life of an Australian oologist. I have been particularly fortunate in this respect, and now possess a very fair series of these rare eggs. My latest addition is a clutch of the above-named species from Nullagine, Pilbarra goldfield, Western Australia, taken by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock.

The nest was cup-shaped, composed of dead spinifex leaves, and lined with kangaroo fur, the walls of the nest being thin and much interwoven with growing spinifex. Inside measurements, 2½ inches wide by 1½ inches deep. Situation, a natural cavity in a clump of spinifex growing on the side of a small gully. Size of clump, 3 feet in diameter by 30 inches in height.

Eggs, two, stout oval in shape, shell smooth and without gloss; colour white, marked all over, but particularly at the larger end, with small irregular-shaped brownish-red dots and splashes. Measurements—(a) .87 x .64, (b) .84 x .64.

MALURUS DULCIS (*Leggeornis amabilis dulcis*).

In *The Emu* * I described a clutch of three eggs said to be those of the above species. I now wish to alter the identification, verified by Mr. G. M. Mathews, to that of *Leggeornis amabilis rogersi*. The skins and eggs referred to were taken by Mr. G. F. Hill in North-West Australia. Skins (again identified by Mr. Mathews) and eggs of the true *Leggeornis amabilis dulcis* have now been received from Mr. H. G. Barnard, descriptions of the nest and eggs being as follow:—

Nest, a small dome-shaped structure composed of soft dead

* *Emu*, vol. x., p. 133.

grass, and placed in a bunch of spinifex (*Triodia*) growing in rough sandstone country. Outside measurement, 120 mm. x 90 mm.

Eggs, four in number, rather elongated oval in shape; texture of shell smooth, with a little gloss; colour white, with small reddish-brown markings distributed plentifully all over the surface. Measurements in inches:—(a) .61 x .44, (b) .6 x .44, (c) .59 x .42, (d) .59 x .42.

A second clutch contains four eggs, each of which is different in size, shape, and colour, the colour varying from heavy blotches of reddish-brown at the larger end to pure white. In a third clutch, of three eggs, the markings are confined to the larger end, while the eggs are slightly pyriform in shape.

Type clutch taken by H. G. Barnard, 8th January, 1914; locality, Borroloola, Macarthur River, south-west of Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory.

The Young of *Climacteris leucophæa*.

By J. W. MELLOR.

THE young of the White-throated Tree-creeper is not generally known, and even in the early days of ornithology it was mistaken by the noted ornithologist, the late John Gould, for a distinct species; this was rectified later by Mr. A. J. North. Some controversy arose amongst ornithologists at the last R.A.O.U. expedition relative to this bird. A description of the young female from specimens procured by me at Mallacoota, Victoria, during the fourteenth congress expedition of the R.A.O.U. would probably be helpful to ornithology. A notable feature, and one that strikes the observer instantly, is the large patch of bright rufous-brown which extends from a quarter way up the back right down the tail coverts, and forms a conspicuous rufous rump; this is noticeable even in the nestlings, but, I believe, is only found in the young females, for such is my experience with a number of specimens handled. This rufous rump lessens in size and intensity as the bird matures, until it finally disappears, giving place to the slaty-grey colour of the old bird. From specimens now before me I find that the process of changing does not come about by moulting, but by a fading away of the rusty colour and a gradual predominance of the slaty-grey colouration. A bright rusty-brown of the same hue appears just below the ear coverts, and is maintained by the adult female throughout life. The head, neck, and back are of a blackish-brown colour, each feather on the head being narrowly tipped with brown. Those of the mantle have a brownish tip followed by a brownish-black band, and then more brown colouring, giving the bird a somewhat indistinct, freckled appearance. The ear coverts are somewhat coarse and hairy, being blackish-brown with a light brown stripe down the centre of each. The wings are of greyish-brown appearance when closed, the primaries being brownish-black,