

Descriptions of Nests and Eggs New to Science.

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

Microœca brunneicauda, Campbell. Brown-tailed Flycatcher.

Nest.—Small, open structure, composed of bark, the outside being covered with small pieces of leaves and cobwebs, and gives the following measurements:—Outside—breadth $1\frac{2}{5}$ inches, depth $1\frac{1}{10}$ inches; inside—breadth $1\frac{3}{10}$ inches, depth $\frac{3}{5}$ inch.

Eggs.—One egg only, oval in shape; surface of shell fine, smooth, and slightly glossy, and under the lens minute pittings can be noticed, and these are well distributed. Ground colour pale bluish-grey, spotted all over, but particularly at the larger end, where an irregular zone is formed, with chestnut and purple, those of the latter colour mostly appearing as it beneath the surface of the shell.

Measurement in inches:—.77 x .54.

Locality.—Taken for me by Mr. G. F. Hill at Napier Broome Bay, North-West Australia; on 23rd October, 1909.*

Many of the more recently created sub-species of birds show such slight variation that one requires a strong glass, and an imagination, to detect the differences; others, again, from widely-separated localities, are easily distinguished, while the eggs also differ considerably. I consider that the following come under the second category:—

Acanthiza uropygialis condora, Mathews. Chestnut-rumped Tit-Warbler.

Nest.—Composed of bark, grass, and cobwebs, lined with wallaby fur and feathers, and placed in a stump 6 inches from the ground.

Eggs.—Clutch of three, pointed oval in shape, surface of shell very fine and slightly glossy; ground colour white, scattered over the surface, but particularly at the larger end (especially so with specimen c), with fine markings of pale reddish-brown and a few of dull purplish-grey.

Measurements in inches:—(a) .62 x .44, (b) .63 x .45, (c) .60 x .45.

Locality.—Taken by Capt. S. A. White at Moorilyanna Water Well, Central Australia, on 29th July, 1914.

Cinclosoma castanonotum dundasi, Mathews. Chestnut-backed Ground-Bird.

Eggs.—Clutch of two, rather swollen oval in shape; surface of shell fine, smooth, and slightly glossy; ground colour pale greyish-white, finely spotted all over, but particularly at the larger end, where a cap is formed, with umber and dull slate, the latter appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. Specimen a is much more heavily marked than specimen b.

Measurements in inches:—(a) 1.17 x .85, (b) 1.11 x .83.

Locality.—Taken by Capt. S. A. White at the Officer River, near the Everard Ranges, Central Australia, on 6th August, 1914.

* *Vide Emu*, vol. x., pp. 169 and 273.

Mytila (Amytornis) striata owenl. Mathews. Striated Grass-Wren.

Nest.—Is of the domed type and globular in shape, outwardly constructed of dried spinifex (*Triodia*) stems, and fine grasses. The interior very neatly lined with buff-coloured vegetable down, but the cavity containing the eggs is small in comparison with the bulk of the nest. It was difficult to tell the top from the bottom of the nest when it was removed from the growth of spinifex.

Eggs.—Clutch of three, oval in shape, surface of shell fine, smooth, and slightly glossy; ground colour white, with the very faintest tinge of pinkish-buff, finely spotted and speckled all over, but particularly at the larger end, where a well-marked zone is formed, with pale reddish-brown, umber, and dull slate, the latter appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. The markings are so small that it is necessary to use a magnifying-glass in order to determine the correct colours.

Measurements in inches:—(a) .79 x .59, (b) .77 x .57, (c) .80 x .58.

Locality.—Taken for me by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock at Spinifex Plain, Borewell, East Murchison, Western Australia, on 12th September, 1909.

Aphelocephala castaneiventris whitei, Mathews. Chestnut-bellied Whiteface.

Nest.—Composed of grass and twigs, lined with animal fur, and placed in a hollow mulga.

Eggs.—Clutch of three, swollen oval in shape; surface of shell fine, smooth, and glossy; ground colour pale buffy-white, well spotted all over, but particularly at the larger end, where a well-defined zone is formed, with light and dark umber markings, intermingled with those of dull purplish-grey, the latter appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell.

Measurements in inches:—(a) .67 x .5, (b) .67 x .5, (c) .65 x .51.

Locality.—Taken by Capt. S. A. White at the Everard Ranges, Central Australia, on 8th August, 1914.

Descriptions of Nests and Eggs of *Monarcha canescens* and *Neochmia phaeton albiventer*.

BY DR. W. MACGILLIVRAY, VICE-PRESIDENT R.A.O.U., BROKEN HILL.

Monarcha canescens (Salvadori), *Monarcha melanopsis canescens* of Mathews' 1913 "List of the Birds of Australia," is a rare bird at Cape York, but quite common in the scrubs and open forest country at the back of Lloyd's Bay. It nests in the scrubs, where Mr. W. McLennan was fortunate in finding the first nest on the 11th January, 1915. The nest was about 20 feet from the ground in a fig-tree growing in scrub on the Claudie River.