

eggs, which I could just reach without cutting out the hollow. Did not disturb the nest, as I thought the bird might lay again in same nest. Composed of short grass, cattle-hair, and pieces of bark; could not see any snake scales in it (as was the case with my nest found on 2/9/21); several small pieces of charcoal in with the eggs."

The latter data refers to clutch taken on 30/10/21. In his notes referring to the clutch of two taken on 1st November, 1921, he states:—"Saw likely looking hollow in direction from which the bird came, so went and examined it. Nest there right enough; contained two fine eggs; secured them and also nest. Hollow 15 feet from ground in a mountain ash. Went away about 100 yards and watched what the birds would do. Both returned to nest in a few minutes, one carrying quite a large piece of charcoal in its bill; it went into the hollow, and the other flew off."

*Geophaps scripta peninsulae* (H. L. White). Northern Part-ridge-Pigeon or Squatter-Pigeon.

Clutch, 2 eggs; stout ovals in shape, very pale creamy-white, surface of shell rather smooth and glossy. Dimensions—A, 1.16 × .88; B, 1.12 × .85 inches. Nest situated amongst short grass, and consisted of a shallow depression in ground, lined with few leaves, and pieces of grass.

Collected by Mr. W. McLennan, at Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, 15th September, 1921.

*Podargus strigoides capensis* (Mathews). Tawny Frogmouth.

Clutch, 2 eggs; pointed ovals in shape; colour, pure white; surface of shell slightly coarse, and almost without gloss, while under the lens numerous small pittings are noticeable. Dimensions—A, 1.52 × 1.08; B, 1.47 × 1.09 inches.

Nest a flat structure of small sticks, placed 18 feet from ground on thick horizontal fork of ironwood tree.

Collected by Mr. W. McLennan at Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, 28th September, 1921.

## Abnormal and Curious Combination Clutches

By H. L. WHITE, M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U., "Belltrees," N.S.W.

### Abnormal Clutches of Eggs or Nestlings observed, Season 1921

Probably the good season experienced generally throughout Australia has been the cause of so many clutches, containing an unusually large number of eggs, or young being noted. Mention of a few may be the means of bringing other records from various observers. Following are some records that have come under my personal notice.

*Notophoxyx novæ-hollandiæ*. White-fronted Heron. — Six eggs, noted by Mr. A. B. Bettington, 27th November, 1921, at Brindley Park, Merriwa, N.S.W.

*Gymnorhina tibicen*. Black-backed Magpie. — Six young birds in one nest noted by Mr. E. Page (a thoroughly reliable observer) near Muswellbrook, N.S.W., during August, 1921.

*Eupodotis australis*. Australian Bustard. — "The Daily Mail," Brisbane, of the 3rd December, 1921, records a clutch of three eggs noted by Mr. Archer of Mount Enniskillen Station, near Blackall, Queensland.

*Dacelo leachii*. Blue-winged Kingfisher. — Five eggs, all fresh, noted by Mr. W. McLennan, on 20th October, 1921, near Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland.

*Plegadis falcinellus*. Glossy Ibis. — Six eggs, found by Mr. F. C. Morse, at The Watercourse, Moree, N.S.W., during December, 1921.

*Dendrocygna eytoni*. Plumed Whistling Duck. — Sixteen eggs found by Mr. F. C. Morse at Coocalla, Garah, N.S.W., October, 1920.

*Chenonetta jubata*. Maned Goose (Wood Duck). — Sixteen eggs taken by Mr. F. C. Morse, Coocalla, Garah, N.S.W., August, 1920. Mr. Morse reports having noted a clutch of 18 young Wood-Ducks during the late spring; also a clutch of 28, with a pair of old birds, but cannot believe that this great number was the product of one pair of birds.

*Virago gibberifrons*. Grey Teal. — Seventeen eggs found by Mr. F. C. Morse at The Watercourse, Moree, N.S.W., September, 1920.

*Cinclosoma alisteri*. Black-throated Ground-Bird. — Three eggs noted on three occasions during November, 1921, by Mr. F. L. Whitlock near Haig, trans-Australian railway, Western Australia. I have not previously heard of more than two *Cinclosoma* eggs to the clutch.

*Entomyza cyanotis harterti*. Northern Blue-eyed Honey-eater. — Three young, two chipped and one addled egg all in same nest, observed by Mr. W. McLennan near Coen, North Queensland, on 20th September, 1921. Five eggs, fresh, of same species noted by Mr. W. McLennan from one nest near Coen, North Queensland, on 9th October, 1921.

#### Curious Combination Clutches

*Entomyza cyanotis harterti*. Northern Blue-eyed Honey-eater. — Two eggs with one of *Pomatorhinus rubeculus* in the nest of last named; noted by Mr. W. McLennan near Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, on 1st October, 1921. Contrary to their usual habit, the Honey-eater had not built its nest inside that of the Babbler.

Two eggs of the Blue-winged Kingfisher (*Dacelo leachii*) with two eggs of the Northern Blue Mountain Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus nova-hollandiae septentrionalis*) in same nesting hole; noted by Mr. W. McLennan near Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, on 25th October, 1921. When first observed (22/10/21) the nest contained one egg of each species.

## Stray Feathers

**Eggs of Black-ringed Finch** (*Stizoptera annulosa*).—A clutch of 5 eggs in my collection possesses very small specks of black, well distributed over the larger ends of the specimens. Collected by Mr. W. McLennan on Groote Eylandt, Northern Territory, on June 15th, 1921. Another clutch containing 7 eggs was taken by Mr. R. Hislop at Cooktown, North Queensland, November 4th, 1898. These eggs also possess black specks on their larger ends.—HENRY L. WHITE "Belltrees," Scone, N.S.W., 9/12/21.

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**Albino Australian Pipit or Ground Lark** (*Anthus australis*).—A white specimen of this bird was noticed by the overseer (Mr. J. Telfer) with one of his men. The bird was a young one, and was noticed to be weak on the wing, so they immediately gave chase. The bird kept going for about quarter of a mile, reaching a rough gorge, where it took shelter for a time. On being disturbed again, it flew up and down the side of the gorge, until getting into open country. Making off, it flew into a very thick swarm of grasshoppers, which seemed to upset the bird, and Mr. Telfer was able to get his hat over it.—A. B. BETTINGTON, R.A.O.U., "Brindley Park," Merriwa, N.S.W., 30/11/21.

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**Hawk and Dottrels.**—While on the bank of the Merriwa Creek one day lately, I noticed a Collared Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*) make a dart at three Black-fronted Dottrels (*Charadrius melanops*) that were running along the edge. To my astonishment the Dottrels dived into the stream, and keeping under the water, made for the opposite shore. On the Hawk turning again, the same thing was repeated, and so on for half an hour, when I left. It is the first time I have ever seen a Dottrel take to water. A most remarkable feature was the direct dive; they went in like stones, sometimes 15 feet from the shore. Some time elapsed between each swoop. After making a miss, the Hawk went direct to an "Oak Tree," and waited until the Dottrels took to the wing. He missed them badly each time, and the Dottrels did not seem more nervous than usual.—A. B. BETTINGTON, R.A.O.U., "Brindley Park," Merriwa, N.S.W., 30/11/21.