

The first was the size of the Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*), and similar in stature, with a uniform dark grey colour all over. A pair had a nest in an old 4-inch iron pipe on the trans-continental line, but when I returned to the spot the nest was destroyed by the removal of the pipe. Those who displaced this pipe informed me that the nest contained several white eggs.

The other bird, whose size and characteristics resembled the Zebra Finch (*Tæniopygia castanotis*), was grey all over, being darker on the back, with a number of conspicuous light spots around the bill. The beak was a bright greyish-white colour showing a pink tinge throughout. I saw about a dozen of these birds several miles north of the range on a couple of occasions always in the one set of bushes. White Owls,* probably a light phase of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), are found in the caves on the Nullarbor, generally on the western side. I observed one of these perched on top of the house at Madura on two consecutive moonlight evenings.

In the not too distant future I anticipate being able to secure several specimens of these birds as well as being able to make much further observation of the bird life in this country. Generally speaking, birds have very few enemies in this area, the chief being "Goannas," Foxes, Native Cats and a few domestic cats gone wild.

* See also Vol. XXVII. page 196 for another reference to this light-coloured Owl.—Ed.

Photographing Blue Wrens.—Using a captured young Blue Wren as a decoy, I was successful in securing the accompanying photograph of the three adult birds—two males and a female. Two photographs were secured of groups of three birds, and in each instance I was fortunate in getting all three in fair positions and showing no movement. The squeaks of the tethered youngster caused quite a commotion amongst the Blue Wren families in the vicinity, and three or four pairs hurried up to join their loud-voiced protestations to the medley. The sight of the males in resplendent breeding plumage with their sober-hued, but none the less vivacious, mates, scampering about within a few feet of me formed a very pretty picture. At one moment their tails were held in the normal elevated position, and the next trailed behind as they ran mouse-like along the ground with fluffed-up plumage.—NORMAN CHAFFER, R.A.O.U., Roseville, Sydney, N.S.W.



Superb Blue Wrens.

Photo. by Norman Chaffer, R.A.O.U.