



White-browed Scrub-Wrens at nest.

Photo by A. J. Gwynne, R.A.O.U.

exactly the same method as that employed by the Pied Grallina or Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), viz., a billfull of dry grass was conveyed to the nest and the bird then sat in the cavity. After making herself comfortable and sitting thus for a few minutes, the grass was placed, piece by piece, in to the bowl of the nest. Meanwhile the sitting bird turned slowly round and round, from right to left on each occasion, forcing the grass into position with her breast and wings, and not with the bill as one would expect. Whilst all this was going on the other bird, which I took to be the male, was absent, but occasionally he would be seen in a nearby tree making a peculiar sound somewhat like a domestic fowl with roup.

The following week I found another nest with two fresh eggs by tracing similar sounds to a tree in which I found the female sitting on a nest, and the male sitting as close as possible and keeping up this continual and monotonous noise—a note quite unlike any other note I have heard from a *Strepera*.

The nest resembles that of a Magpie very closely in structure, but is easily distinguished by its neater appearance and the shallow egg-cavity which is invariably lined with soft dry grass. Usually it is placed in the topmost branches of a slender sapling. The nests are larger and flatter than those of Magpies, and vary from 14 to 18 inches over all and from 6 to 10 inches in depth. The egg-cavity varies from 7 to 9 inches in diameter and from 2 to 3 inches in depth.

The White-Browed Scrub-Wren.—During the past season (1929) several nests of *Sericornis frontalis*, the vivacious little bird so common in our scrubs and heathlands came under my notice. The first nest was discovered in early September and contained a newly hatched Fantail Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*), the last in December and from which three young birds left on the 8th of the month.

Nests of these birds can be easily located when they contain young. The parents become indignant for a few minutes at the presence of man, but if one sits down quietly, they soon come close, look at the intruder, and commence foraging on the ground. After securing a tasty morsel they run over the ground rapidly, taking advantage of any cover that may offer, feed their young, and then stand at the nest entrance for a few seconds before making a short flight to seek more food.

The nests are always carefully concealed in the undergrowth, and every one that I have seen has been built on sloping ground in positions facing the morning sun.—A. J. GWYNNE, R.A.O.U.