



A watering place of Flock Pigeons.



At a Flock Pigeon's nest—about 4 miles from nearest water.

Photos. by D. W. Gaukrodger, R.A.O.U.



Photo. by D. W. Gauchrodter, R.A.O.U. Flock Pigeon (*Heterophaps histrionica*).

ground fence on August 14, while on August 18 a pair of Cuckoo-Shrikes was seen at East Devonport.

The migratory Welcome Swallows began to return on August 23, while on September 12 the Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) was calling, and on September 15 a pair of Pipits was noticed in fine plumage by the roadside. Five days later the Bronze Cuckoo—*Chalcites basalis*, probably—was heard, and the same morning, which was sunny and warm, a friend in Devonport showed me a beautiful specimen of that bird, which had been killed by a motor at Spreyton, three miles away. The children who picked it up said there were five of the birds in the party, which had probably just come over Bass Straits, and were fatigued in consequence.

On September 26 a party of about thirty Orange-breasted Grass-Parrots (*Neophema chrysogaster*) was resting in a grass paddock in Devonport, about a mile from the sea. Seemingly, they had just crossed from the mainland. Some were snuggled down in the grass, others were sitting on the fence rails close to the posts, where they were sheltered from the cool south wind. They remained in this paddock three days before moving inland. A smaller party was noted near the same place last spring (*The Emu*, Vol. XXIX, p. 194)—on that occasion I was not sure of the species, but this time I was close enough to see the orange patch on the abdomen.

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**Nest of Flock Pigeon.**—The Flock Pigeon (*Histriophaps histrionica*) is very rare in Western Queensland nowadays, and was for many years thought to be extinct, but according to my enquiries they still exist in the Northern Territory. They made a reappearance about two years ago, when the accompanying photographs were taken on Westhill Holding, on the Upper Barcoo, and some were observed as far in as Charleville, on the Warrego. It is a beautiful and plump bird, as will be seen by the photograph, and it is a great pity that it elects to keep so much in the back country. It is of a soft brown colour, with crown and throat black, and white patches about the head and throat, as shown. The bird nests out on the open downs, and its eggs are similar to those of most other Pigeons. There is scarcely any semblance of a nest—merely a few dried stalks of grass trampled down to the bare black soil. From the nesting and feeding ground, it retires early in the evening daily, usually to a waterhole on the edge of a gully, and surrounded by coolibah timber. The food is grass seeds. It flies very swiftly and in large flocks, and alights on the water's edge and takes in water almost instantly.—DAVID W. GAUK-RODGER, Hamilton, Brisbane, Qld.