

parts of the district suitable to its habits, the Pied Fantail is not uncommon and is a warm favourite with all residents.

Mohoua albicilla. Whitehead.—This attractive bird still gladdens the heart of the bird lover by its lively notes. It is found sparingly in bush country on both sides of the Lake.

Zosterops lateralis. Silver-eye.—Well distributed and common.

Prothemadera novæ-seelandiæ. Tui.—This honey-eater is still found in bush country, although it is not numerous.

Anthornis melanura. Bell-bird.—Occasionally seen on the western side of the Lake in forest areas.

The following introduced species have been recorded from the district: Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*), Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Yellow-hammer (*Emberiza citrinella*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelus*), Blackbird (*T. merula*), Hedge Sparrow (*Prunella modularis*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) and White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).

Supposed Female and Eggs of *Atrichornis clamosa* (Gould)

By A. G. CAMPBELL, Kilsyth, Victoria.

Gregory Mathews, in the *Birds of Australia*, vol. VIII, p. 30 (1920) records "Authentic nest and eggs not known," but states that —

Tom Carter has given me a note that Messrs. J. and E. A. Hassell were the finders of the nest and eggs. . . As far as he can judge these birds existed until quite recently in that district . . . detailed descriptions of their notes and habits had been given to him.

In the appendix of *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*, p. 1081, by A. J. Campbell, the following notes appear to fill in some details of this brief story.

"To Mr. A. T. Hassell, Western Australia, belongs the honour of discovering, and to Mr. D. Le Souëf, Melbourne, of describing the first authenticated nest and eggs . . of the Noisy Scrub Bird. Although not known at the time, the discovery of this nest was actually made a season sooner than . . . the eastern species.

"Mr. Le Souëf, who has kindly favoured me with his description, states: 'The nest and eggs were found by Mr. Hassell, in October, 1897, near Albany. He was passing along a narrow track through thick scrub when he heard the bird uttering its loud note. He forced his way to the place, and when doing so, suddenly saw the hen bird fly from what appeared to be a bunch of grass near his feet, which, on examination, proved to be the nest. It was situated on the ground, alongside the root of a eucalyptus tree, which was about seven inches out of the ground. The nest was dome-shaped, constructed of grass, and rootlets, with a few leaves, and lined with a white, downy substance. It measured: height, 8½ inches; breadth, 5½ inches; and contained two eggs (slightly incubated), swollen oval in shape, ground-colour of reddish-white, with purplish-brown markings, more numerous on the larger end, where they are confluent. The markings beneath the surface are light purple. The eggs measure: (1) .9 ×

·69, (2) ·85 × ·67 inches.' Mr. Le Souëf has since described the eggs of this bird in the *Ibis*, p. 458 (1900)."

Unfortunately the specimens cannot now be traced.

In 1912, S. W. Jackson visited the same district—Tor Bay and Denmark, south-west Australia—23 years after my late father (A. J. Campbell), but found no sign of the Noisy Scrub-bird. It is a melancholy tale. He met with cats gone wild everywhere, and frequently caught them in traps. During daily rambles he came across numerous bundles of feathers—of Brush Bronzewing Pigeons, White-browed Babblers, Rufous Whistlers, Bronze-Cuckoos, Pied Grallinas, Rufous Tree-creepers, Sittellas, Flycatcher, and others.

The species is now, 76 years after discovery, marked "apparently extinct."

Regarding the birds themselves, a list should be made recording the known skins.*

I submit the following descriptions of two birds in the National Museum, Melbourne, which I take to be a pair, male and female, but, being in spirits, it is not possible to verify this assumption. They came from "W. Webb, 25/1/89, Albany, S.W. Aust."

R.11353—Probably ♂. Similar in every respect to the male in the H. L. White Collection no. 2721, except that the spirit has removed the siliceous sheen from the feathers of the mantle, and masked the delicate vermiculations or fine cross markings of all the feathers, including those of the wings and tail. The black centre to the lower throat and breast, the white sides of the throat, and the white abdomen are well defined, abdomen and undertail coverts are rufous (sandford) brown. Length in inches—8·6, bill ·8 (·3 in depth), wing 3·2, tail 4·2, tarsus 1·0.

R.11354—Possibly ♀. Resembles male, but is smaller, and the pattern of under surface differs. The upper throat only is greyish, the remainder of the under surface pale to deep cinnamon brown. This is the smaller bird, with shorter rounded wing, although the legs are almost as strong, and have the scutellae back and front, which is regarded as an ancestral feature. Length in inches—8·0, bill (partly broken) ·7, wing 3·0, tail, 3·7, tarsus, 1·0.

The female of *Atrichornis rufescens* shows the same comparative differences in the pattern of the undersurface. See coloured plate (pl. 47) *The Emu*, vol. xix.

* In National Museum, Melbourne, besides the three specimens mentioned herein, are two mounted birds, namely: R. 55127, probably ♂, W.A., col. W. Kershaw. R. 54988, ♂, W.A., 22/5/90, col. A. J. Campbell.

In the *British Museum Catalogue*, vol. xiii, p. 660 (1890) are: Ad. sk., Perth, W.A.; ♂ ad. sk., Albany, King George's Sound. A footnote states there is "the sternum of *A. clamosa* in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons."