

Nest of the Masked Owl.

THE nest-hole of the Masked Owl (*Strix novæ-hollandiæ*), contained one fledgling, and fortunately (or perhaps unfortunately) nearly three-quarters of the empty shell, just sufficient to determine breadth, colour, surface, &c., exactly, and the length by approximation and analogy. Particulars are as follow:—

Date, 20th December, 1902. Site, &c., an old redgum (*E. rostrata*); entrance to nest about 45 feet up; hole 8 inches across by 18 inches long. Under the lower rim of the hole, about 6 inches down, was a picked-out platform, worn smooth where the young rested when waiting for food, thus doing away with the need of the parents entering each time. Floor of the nest about 4 feet down, in which were found bones and feathers of parrots. In one corner were the three-quarter shell and some of the remaining fragments.

Colour of Egg—Beautiful pearly white, with here and there some heaping-up of the lime salts of the shell. Slight lustre and smooth fairly even surface and fine texture. Shape—Rounded, but a little less so than that of Owls' eggs generally.

Dimensions—*Breadth*, 1 inch 5 lines, or almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. *Length* (ascertained approximately by drawing in the missing portion in a carefully measured copy of the existing portion on paper), nearly 2 inches.

Only one parent bird flew from the nest, and a search failed to discover the other in the vicinity.—(DR.) ERNEST A. D'OMBRAIN. Casterton, Victoria, 23/12/02.

Editorial Note.

UNTIL there be published a "Check List" of Australian birds, which the Aust. O.U. has in view in the near future, members and contributors are invited to use as far as possible, the nomenclature in the Australasian Science Association's List (1898). This will greatly aid the editors when revising the MSS. Moreover, it is obvious that if authors use their own favourite or local names, some little confusion may ensue, not to mention the discount in value of important notes by the use of obsolete names.

Advertisement.

A WIDOW of an ornithologist has a case of mounted Australian Quails to dispose of. It consists of 12 birds of various species besides a pair of Snipe, and can be had for less than half its intrinsic value—a rare chance for collectors or others.—Apply to the editor of this Journal.