

North, Nests and Eggs Birds Austr. i. p. 187, pl. vii. fig. 7 (1889); Campbell, Nests and Eggs Austr. Birds, i. p. 55 (1901); North, Nests & Eggs Birds Austr. i. p. 5 (1901).

"*Corvus coronoides coronoides*, Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 442 (1912) [Type: New South Wales].

"*Corvus coronoides perplexus*, Mathews, t. c. p. 442 [South-west Australia].

"*Corvus marianæ marianæ*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [New South Wales].

"*Corvus marianæ mellori*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [Victoria, South Australia; South-west Australia].

"*Corvus marianæ halmaturinus*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [Kangaroo Island].

"*Corvus marianæ tasmanicus*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [Tasmania].

"2. **The Crow.** *Corvus cecilæ*,* Mathews.

"*Corvus australis*, Gould, Handb. Birds Aust. i. p. 475 (1865) [part.]

"*Corvus coronoides*, Ramsay, *Ibis*, 1865, p. 303 [part.]; Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iii. p. 20 (1877) [part.]; North, Nests & Eggs Birds Austr. i. p. 186, pl. vii. fig. 8 (1889); Campbell, Nests & Eggs Austr. Birds, i. p. 54 (1901); North, Nests & Eggs Birds Austr. i. p. 1 (1901); Ogilvie-Grant, *Ibis*, 1909, p. 652 [Southern Cross; Koolgardie and Gascoyne R., West Australia].

"*Corvus coronoides cecilæ*, Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 442 (1912) [North-west Australia].

"*Corvus bennetti bennetti*, Mathews (nec North), t. c. p. 442 [New South Wales; South Australia].

"*Corvus bennetti queenslandicus*, Mathews, t. c. p. 443 [Queensland].

"3. **The Small-billed Crow, or Jackdaw** *Corvus bennetti*, North.

"*Corvus bennetti*, North, Victorian Nat. xvii. p. 170 (1901) [Moolah, western New South Wales]; Ogilvie-Grant, *Ibis*, 1909, p. 650 [Carnarvon, Gascoyne R., West Australia].

"*Corvus bennetti bonhoti*, Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 442 [Murchison, West Australia].

"The colour of the iris does not seem to be of any value as a specific character. In fully adult examples of all three species it appears to be white."

Stray Feathers.

Description of Eggs of Lesser Yellow-faced Honey-eater (*Ptilotis sub-chrysops*), *Emu*, ante, p. 19).—In form pointed ovals, though somewhat swollen. Surface of shell fine and slightly glossy. Ground colour pinkish-buff, spotted and lightly blotched, particularly at the larger ends, where irregular zones occur, with two

* Through the confusion existing in ornithological works, Mr. Ogilvie-Grant is of opinion that this is the only name available.—Eds.

shades of reddish-brown and a few markings of dull purplish-grey, the latter appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. The pair of eggs measures in inches :—(a) 0.77 x 0.55, (b) 0.77 x 0.53. They were taken for me by Mr. Roy Hislop, near Cooktown, North Queensland, on 25th November, 1909, and the parents were forwarded with the eggs.—H. L. WHITE. Belltrees, 2/6/12.

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Description of Nest and Eggs of Western Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus westernensis*), (*Emu*, vol. xi., p. 223).—*Nest*.—Dome-shaped, but not completely hooded. Total length, 5 inches; breadth, 3 inches; depth inside, from lower edge of entrance, 2 inches; diameter of entrance, 1 inch. Composed outwardly of long, narrow strips of thin bark, which are soft and much weather-worn, matted together with cobwebs and the green egg-bags of spiders. Lining consists of fine grass, a few feathers, and a quantity of short brown silken, hair-like stems, which are neatly worked into the front portion. *Eggs*.—Swollen ovals in shape; surface of shell fine, but without gloss. Ground colour dull white, over which are scattered spots and specks of dark and light reddish-brown and pale umber. In (a) these markings are more confined to the larger end, while in (b) they are more closely set together at the smaller end. The pair of eggs measures in inches :—(a) 0.65 x 0.48, (b) 0.63 x 0.48. Taken by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock for me at Wilson's Inlet, S.W., Western Australia, on 11th November, 1911. The eggs were much incubated. Female was flushed from nest, which was placed low down in long, coarse grasses.—H. L. WHITE. Belltrees, 5/4/12.

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Occurrence of *Myzantha melanotis*, Wilson, near the Murray, S.A.—On the 5th January of this year I spent a day in the mallee, about 5 miles east of Schwetze's Landing, 11 miles above Marmion, on the Lower Murray. I found the above-mentioned species in exactly the same patch of mallee in which I met with it in January last year (1911). My friend, Mr. G. Mann, told me then (in January, 1911) that the Miner in the mallee was in his opinion distinct from the species frequenting the large red gums (*Eucalyptus rostrata*) growing along the banks of the river. He stated that some of the notes were distinct, and that the mallee species was much more active on the wing than the other—he had watched them catching insects on the wing. Although I saw the bird in January, 1911, and tried to get within shot, I did not succeed in obtaining one, my friends being in a hurry to get home with their teams. This year I saw nothing of the bird until we were on the return journey, when, at the same spot, I heard them calling, and secured one. I agree with previous writers that it is nearly allied to the Western Australian species, *M. obscura*, though distinct therefrom. I believe the locality where Captain S. A. White met with it was about 40 miles back from the Murray. The next morning I shot a specimen of *M. garrula* on the

river frontage for comparison of measurements, &c., as follows:—*Myzantha garrula*, shot Schwetze's Landing, 6/1/12.—Total length, 11 inches; wing, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; culmen, 1 inch; tarsus, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Iris dark brown; feet, upper side brownish-yellow; bare skin behind eye yellow; eyelid white. *Myzantha melanotis*, shot 5/1/1912.—Total length, 10 inches; wing, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; culmen, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tarsus, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Iris grey-brown; feet brown; bill dark yellow; bare skin behind eye, and upper and lower eyelids, yellow.—EDWIN ASHBY. Blackwood (S.A.), 13/3/12.

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Birds of the Mallee near Schwetze's Landing, River Murray, S.A., observed 5th January, 1912.—The locality under observation is about 5 miles east of the Murray. In a narrow strip of standing mallee only 6 chains wide, between two wheat paddocks cropped this season, the Mallee-Fowl (*Lipoa ocellata*) had made a nest in the early spring, and from the recent scratching it was evident that at this late date there were eggs in the mound still undergoing incubation. One of the birds was seen by some of our party feeding in the stubble near the scrub. We examined a large excavation, a foot or so deep, that had been scratched out by the birds in the spring and then deserted for the place above referred to. My friends, who had often seen the birds, could assign no reason for the desertion of the first position; probably it had to do with the hardness of the subsoil, or some obstruction met with. A good deal of the mallee was in flower, and had attracted great numbers of White-fronted Honey-eaters (*Glycyphila albifrons*) and a fair number of its near relative—*G. fulvifrons*. The varied cries and whistling notes of these two species, chiefly the former, filled the scrub with lively sounds. Single specimens of the Red-rumped Ground-Wren (*Hylacola cauta*) were seen from time to time running quickly across small open spaces between the thick undergrowth. In these rapid runs the tail was often not carried erect, whereas when moving amongst the stems of the bushes it was always erect. The Red-rumped Tit (*Acanthiza pyrrhopygia*) was fairly common, but its allied species, *A. uropygialis*, so common in the more open mallee near the river, was not met with here. In the larger blocks of mallee the low warning whistle of the Scrub-Robin (*Drymacædus brunneipygius*) was heard. As one moved quietly through the bushes the birds would allow one to approach very closely. While keeping themselves more or less hidden from the observer's view by the mallee-stems, their large black eyes might be caught staring at the intruder with curiosity. The Chestnut-backed Ground-Bird (*Cinclosoma castanonotum*) was fairly numerous, running for long distances in preference to flying, but keeping the stems of bushes between itself and its pursuer. The flute-like notes of the Bell-Bird (*Oreoica cristata*) were heard several times during the day, and one specimen was unintentionally shot. The specimens of the Brown-headed Honey-eater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*) obtained were very bright green on the back;

whether or not there is an exceptionally green strain inhabiting the Mallee, I was unable to determine. The White-faced Honey-eater (*Ptilotis leucotis*) and the Yellow-plumed Honey-eater (*Ptilotis ornata*) were both very numerous. A specimen of *Strepera melanoptera* (evidently this year's bird) shot showed a very distinct white patch on the wings, common to the allied species, *Strepera fusca*. It is possible that these mallee birds are intermediate between the two forms. Of Parrakeets, *Barnardius barnardi* and *Calopsittacus novaehollandiae* were both met with—of the latter a large flock. The Yellow-rumped Pardalote (*Pardalotus xanthopygius*) was present, but not numerous.—EDWIN ASHBY. Blackwood (S.A.), 13/3/12.

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West Devonport (Tasmania) Notes.—This autumn has been remarkable for the great number of Robins which have frequented our paddocks and gardens. Every autumn this movement towards the towns and villages takes place, but the numbers seem greater than ever this season, especially of the beautiful Flame-breasted species (*Petræca phænicea*), which far outnumber the Scarlet-breasted (*P. leggii*). As remarked in former notes, the Flame-breasted Robins gather into flocks at the approach of autumn, while *P. leggii* remains in pairs throughout the year. My friend Mr. H. C. Thompson, of Launceston, agrees with me in thinking that the male Flame-breasted Robin in full plumage is the brightest and loveliest bird in our State. He says, in a recent letter:—"We saw a number of them at the Third Basin, South Esk River, in a rocky paddock. As they stood on the round, dark boulders with the afternoon sun reflected from their glowing breasts, they looked splendid indeed." No doubt it was this fondness for rocky ground which caused the name *Petræca*, or "rock-frequenting," to be given to the genus. We have plenty of this species with us still in the second week of June. I am not with those who believe that the birds leave our shores for the mainland at the approach of winter.* The Flame-breast is always with us.

The Wood-Swallows (*Artamus sordidus*) always gather in some paddocks near the beach about the autumn equinox. There numbers remain, taking short flights from fences and trees, until a cold snap comes in April to drive them northward. This year the compelling force arrived during the fourth week of April, when not only the Wood but also the Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) cleared off in a body, nor have I seen one since. The Pipits (*Anthus australis*) seem to have left at the same time, also the remainder of the Pallid (*Cuculus inornatus*) and Fan-tailed Cuckoos (*Cacomantis rufulus*); but on 16th May I noticed one

* Recently a "Nature Note" published in *The Argus* stated that some observers, while fishing in the neighbourhood of Port Phillip Heads, noticed a flock of Flame-breasted Robins flying over the sea. There was no doubt the birds were heading inland. But where did they come from?—Eds.

pair of Pipits in a newly-ploughed paddock, and on the 18th again, at the same place, feeding in company with White-fronted Chats (*Ephthianura albifrons*) and Robins. During last week also I noted a solitary Pipit on two occasions, so that a few stragglers have remained, as usually happens. Mr. H. C. Thompson heard a Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rufulus*) calling on 19th May, near Launceston, but on the coast none has been observed by me since April.

The White-bearded Honey-eater (*Meliornis novæ-hollandiæ*) frequents the Cape wattle of our gardens during the winter season, and, as this tree is now in full bloom, it presents a scene of great animation in the day, with the lively movements of this fine species, sometimes chasing away a Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) or a Fantail (*Rhipidura diemenensis*), or dashing through the branchlets after one of its own kin. There is a male in splendid plumage which sits on the topmost twig of a weeping willow that adjoins the wattle in the early morning sunshine, from which point of vantage he makes frequent sallies to catch insects, which begin to fly as the sun's warmth moves them.

While in a clump of small bush in the middle of May I noticed a party of Strong-billed Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus validirostris*), a species I had not seen about Devonport for a considerable time. The birds were engaged in running up the stems and branches of small gums, hunting for insects and spiders under the loose bark, and looked very engaging with their black caps and white neck-rings.—H. STUART DOVE. 8/6/12.

Forgotten Feathers.

LEWIN, "BIRDS OF NEW HOLLAND, 1808."

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.R.S.E.

IN 1808 there was published by J. White, Fleet-street, a book on Australian ornithology, its full title being :—

"Birds/of/New Holland/with their/Natural History/Collected, engraved, and faithfully painted after nature/by/John William Lewin, A.L.S./of Parramatta, New South Wales./ Vol I/ London/printed for the Author;/and published by/J. White, Fleet Street; and S. Bagster, 81 Strand/1808/ The letter-press by T. Bensley, Bold Court."

This work contained 22 pages of letter-press and 18 plates. The plates (except No. 9), published as the Act directs, have a date (different days of March, 1808), and "J. W. Lewin, New South Wales." They are numbered with Roman numerals, except plates 3 and 15, which are in Arabic figures.

At the head of the letter-press to each plate is a Latin name, given, as we are told on the title page, by T. Bensley. Lewin is