

ochreous-buff with brown centres; remainder of the under surface ochreous-buff; the feathers with tawny centres and broadly margined with white, giving a more streaked than spotted appearance; under tail-coverts white with a few faint ochreous-buff shaft-streaks; under wing-coverts uniform ochreous-buff, the lower ones being pale earth-brown with whitish markings; "bill, sky blue, to a little beyond the nostrils, rest, bluish-black; eyes, hazel; feet, sandy-grey." (Troughton & Wright). Total length (in the skin) 367 mm.; culmen 22; wing 232; tail 150; tarsus 45. Figured. Collected by Messrs E. Le G. Troughton and J. H. Wright, at 407 Miles East-West Line, South Australia, on 3rd October, 1921. The bird was taken from a hollow spout in a mallee tree, from which eggs were procured.

In conclusion, I wish to extend to Dr. C. Anderson (Director) and to Mr. J. R. Kinghorn (Zoologist, in charge of birds, reptiles and amphibians), of the Australian Museum, Sydney, my thanks for their kind permission to examine and figure the specimens referred to in this paper. My thanks are due also to the authorities of the Queensland Museum for the loan of the type of *Ninox lurida* De Vis. I would further like to place on record my appreciation of the help and courtesy I have always received from all members of the staff of the Australian Museum.

The Chestnut-tailed Ground-Wren or Heath-Wren (*Hylacola pyrrhopygia*) has previously been recorded as a foster parent of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, though the following observation will be of interest. While watching birds on the swampy uplands of the Illawarra Range above Otford, some forty miles south of Sydney, a young Fan-tailed Cuckoo was secured. Casting about I discovered a nest of *Hylacola* well concealed under a stunted Grass Tree and built on the ground. A pair of agitated Heath-Wrens were nearby and later fed the young Cuckoo. Obviously, they were the foster parents of this bird. Strangely enough two eggs of the Heath-Wren were within a few inches of the entrance of the nest; half concealed by dead leaves they were addled and apparently had been exposed for some time. It appears that the young Cuckoo had ejected them. The Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabellifera*) seems to foist its eggs upon birds which build on or near the ground, generally the various species of *Malurus*, the Rock Warbler (*Origma*), the White-browed Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis frontalis*) and the Heath-Wren are the victims of this parasitic bird. Curiously the nests of all these birds are domed-shaped structures.—H. H. INNES, R.A.O.U., Greenwich, Sydney, 14/10/28.