



Crimson Chat (Male) at nest.

Photo, by L. G. Chandler, R.A.O.U.



Crimson Chat (Female) at nest.

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and all of these have a snow-white base—two kinds of feather bases on each bird! The simple explanation is that these are Crows just changing to maturity. The eyes of the male are recorded as white, those of the female, brown. Skin 6799 from North-Western Australia has a mouse-grey base only, and would have to be regarded as unique within the Crow habitat were it not for the above clue. Its label is endorsed "eyes brown 2nd year."

Synopsis of the differences between the Raven and the Crow:—

(a) The Raven has grey or dusky feather base; the Crow snow-white (50% of the feather).

(b) The Raven has long and broad feathers on the throat $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches or more in length; the Crow has narrow feathers (if any) usually about one inch.

(c) The Raven has the first primary of the wing longer than the secondaries; the Crow has the first primary usually shorter than the secondaries.

These are distinct, consistent and recognisable grounds for separating the species.

The small Crow (*bennetti*) must be considered a subspecies, due to geographical environment. It is found to vary in length of bill and wing in one district, and it grades in size towards typical Crows through the Queensland races.

As no adequate reasons were offered when it was asserted that type *C. coronoides* was an immature Raven, I wrote to the British Museum, where the type is, for further particulars, and received from Dr. Percy Lowe the following reply dated June 7, 1929:—"Registered number, 63.7.7.50. Length of bill, 61 m.m. Length of wing, 363 m.m. Length of tarsus, 66 m.m. Length of lanceolate feathers of neck, 38 m.m. Colour of eyes, not known. Any other signs of immaturity, none." The inclusion of a feather "from lower neck"—this feather having a *shining* tip, and the remainder (50%) of the base being "whitish grey"—should leave no doubt that the type specimen of Vigors and Horsfield is a Crow.—A.G.C.

Crimson Chats.—Crimson Chats (*Epthianura tricolor*) were more plentiful than usual in the Red Cliffs and Mildura districts last year. Possibly the dry season inland was responsible for this. The male bird, with its brilliant plumage, is a conspicuous object. Like the males of the Orange and the White-fronted Chats (*E. aurifrons*) and (*E. albigrons*), he takes his share of responsibility in sitting on the eggs and feeding the young. I found a number of nests, all built in saltbush or grasses and close to the ground. In two cases cats destroyed the young ones. The birds apparently did not nest again, but left the district soon afterwards.—L. G. CHANDLER, R.A.O.U., Red Cliffs, 25/7/29.