

distributed over the whole surface, though they tend to be denser at the large end, and are of a deeper colour than the spots on (a). The eggs measure, in millimetres:—(a) Axis 20 mm. by diameter 14.5 mm.; (b) axis 20 mm. by diameter 14 mm. Locality: Fraser Island, Queensland. October 30, 1930. The nest is now in the National Museum, Melbourne, but the eggs are still in my possession.

I wish to thank Mr. J. A. Kershaw and the trustees of the National Museum, Melbourne, for making specimens available, and also for the facilities offered for study.

Double Nests.—An interesting account, with the accompanying photograph, has been received from A. T. Pycroft, R.A.O.U., Auckland, New Zealand. The writer says that these combination nests—in this case those of a Blackbird and of a Thrush—are becoming more common than formerly. The nest on the left—that of the Blackbird—contained one addled egg; the other eggs were fresh, but the remaining eggs of the Blackbird appeared to be advancing from that condition. The finder of the nest considers that the building of the two portions did not go on simultaneously, and also that the Blackbird had probably deserted her clutch. Possibly the Thrush had not commenced operations until after the Blackbird had deserted, when, finding the site desirable, it had built against the already existing structure.

Mr. Pycroft gives examples of other double nests recorded by Johannes C. Andersen. These include a Thrush's nest, and those of two Fantails and of two Linnets. In some cases it was not possible to ascertain whether both nests had been used, but in others it was obvious that such was the case, as eggs were found in both sections. In one instance a bird was flushed from one part of the combination nest, and the eggs in the other portion were found to be warm, and evidently in process of incubation. The owners apparently sat side by side in perfect amity.

A Morning Walk by the Mersey.—Taking advantage of the delightfully fresh air which has lately characterised our days and made walking a pleasure, I set out one morning for Latrobe by the river road, which has the charm of both woodland and water scenery. The first thing to attract attention was a large flock of Silver Gulls (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*) on one of the sandbanks just uncovered by the tide, when they were squabbling and vociferating in a manner not at all in keeping with their peaceful-looking soft-grey plumage. Mixed with these were some of their larger brethren, the lordly Pacific Gulls (*Gabianus pacificus*), in a plumage of black and snow-white, with orange-tipped bills—very handsome fellows, and they seemed to know it!

Some distance further I was delighted to see two pairs of Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) swimming very deliberately close to a large sandbank on the further side of the water, their immense bills being their most prominent feature. A solitary bird of this species has been about the river for a long time, and it is quite refreshing to see that he has acquired a companion and that a couple more have joined the company. Every lover of our native birds will be in sympathy with the move of the Latrobe Tourist and Improvement Association to have the Mersey and its banks declared a sanctuary from the inlet to the mouth. If this were done, we should soon have companies of Swan, Teal, Coot, and other aquatic species beautifying this fine piece of water, and making it far more attractive to visitors.

Continuing our walk, we noted a Heron (*Notophox novæ-hollandiæ*) standing on a snag just projecting from the surface, his long neck drawn in and his head almost hidden in the shoulder-feathers. Motionless as a statue he stood, apparently absorbed in day-dreams. Overhead a large Harrier or Swamp-Hawk (*Circus approximans*) flew in wide circles, but did not appear to cause any alarm among the feathered folk on the water. On a low snag just projecting above the surface was a White-breasted Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*) in the characteristic heraldic attitude, wings widely displayed, "hanging himself out to dry," as is the custom of these divers.

In the bush above the road Yellow-throated Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga flavicollis*) frequently uttered their soft bubbling calls, one of the most pleasant of bird-voices; wherever a good thick patch of gum-sapling exists, there this beautiful Honeyeater is almost sure to be heard. Another of the family, the Yellow-winged (*Meliornis novæ-hollandiæ*) was seen in some numbers. This species is much less deliberate than the Yellow-throated, dashing from tree to tree or shrub to shrub, at the same time uttering a hissing kind of note. He is one of the boldest of his tribe, and on finding a good patch of nectar-laden blossom, drives away all comers, even those much larger than himself, by his sudden onslaughts.

In a dense part of the scrub a fine pair of Brown Scrub-Wrens (*Sericornis humilis*) was observed; quiet and unobtrusive, but handsome if one gets a good sight of them in their feathering of rich browns and shades of grey. Another quiet bush-dweller is the Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*), a pair being noted in a small tree by the riverside. When fully matured the male has a golden breast, forming a good contrast with the white throat, but here they are much more frequently seen with just a whitish breast, the full colour taking a considerable time to mature. Other species occurring in plenty were the little Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*) and the Blue Wrens (*Malurus cyaneus*); at the edge of the water a party of noisy Native Hens (*Tribonyx mortieri*) scuttled about, disturbed by the presence of pedestrians.—H. STUART DOVE, Tas.