

of Bass Strait at the eastern side is much less, so that if the water level were to be lowered 120 feet or thereabouts, there would be exposed to view a defined land bridge between Tasmania and Australia. A valuable contribution to the map is copied from manuscript contour lines set down by the late H. C. Dannevig, Commonwealth Director of Fisheries, on charts in the possession of the Director of Navigation, Melbourne. Lines of soundings in Bass Strait were made by the trawler *Endeavour* during 1909-1914, and using some of these soundings to correct the printed readings, Dannevig appears to have sketched in pencil the contour lines of forty, forty-five and fifty fathoms in support of his theory of a river valley (which he termed the Tamar Major), running north-west and then west past Cape Otway, and which would collect the drainage of most of Tasmania and a great part of southern Victoria. In a publication, *Biological Results of the Fishing Experiments on the "Endeavour"*, Vol. III, pt. 6, p. 348, Dannevig refers to diagrams based upon these data, but the editor in a footnote remarks: "The diagrams referred to are not forthcoming. It is possible Mr. Dannevig had them with him at the time the vessel was lost."

Admitting that much sand from the wear and tear of the shorelines has collected upon the rock bottom, and to some extent smoothed out irregularities, it is also clear that the chief break occurs on the western side between King Island and Cape Otway, where there is all clear, deep water. It is important, also, to notice that the whole formation of the Strait and of Tasmania itself rests upon a platform which juts out from the base of the continent, one side of it being continuous with the east coast. This is known as the continental shelf, and is in places shown upon the charts by a broken line at 100 fathoms, after which the sea bottom falls away rapidly to thousands of feet.

Whatever forces have been at work to cause the formation of Bass Strait, it is evident that Tasmania now, zoologically, pursues an independent existence, her ancient quota of bird life in no way influenced by the mainland of Australia across a hundred miles of water.

New Cuckoo Combination.—At Tremont, Vic., on Sunday, November 27, 1932, I took the egg of the Square-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*) from the nest of the Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*). It was accompanied by two eggs of the Flycatcher, and is, I believe, a new record. The nest was placed about 55 feet up in a rough-barked tree.—FRANK E. HOWE, R.A.O.U., Canterbury, Vic., 8/12/32.