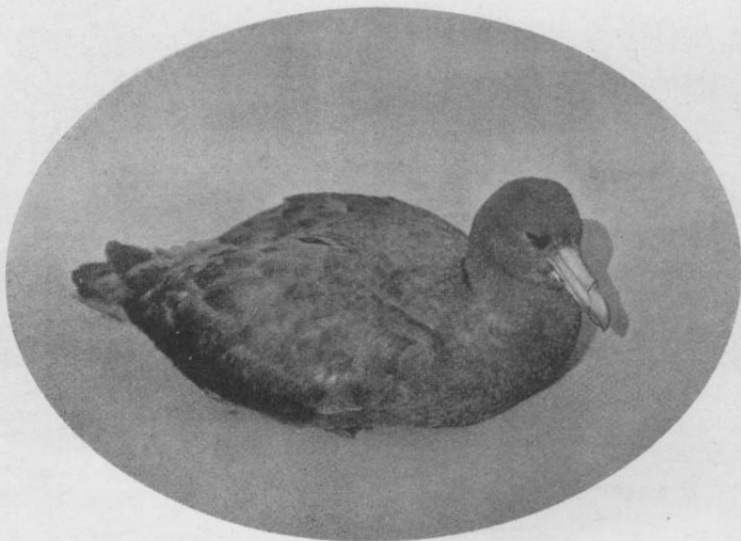


was just opposite the camera I stopped; she did likewise, and began scratching about. As soon as her eyes were taken off me I lay down, while she, looking up a second later, and not seeing me, sprang quickly on to the bush pedestal to reconnoitre, and was immortalized by Mr. Chandler. The sun was shining right on her, and everything was favourable for a good photograph, for Mr. Chandler took an exposure, not a snap. Members will agree that he well deserved his success.

Camera Craft Notes.

Giant Petrel (*Ossifraga gigantea*).—The bird photographed was caught in Port Phillip Bay, near Williamstown, and about 40 miles from the Heads. Mr. F. Lane and another were fishing near the lightship, and saw the bird swimming not far off. They threw it pieces of bread, which it promptly swallowed. They then baited a hook with some bread and threw it towards



The Giant Petrel (*Ossifraga gigantea*).

PHOTO. BY D. LE SOUEF, C.M.Z.S., R.A.O.U.

the bird, which readily took it, and so was captured. The hook, having caught on the bird's bill, was easily removed. It is interesting to note that this ocean bird should have come up the harbour so far from the ocean and close to the shipping. The photograph was taken in the Melbourne Zoo.—D. LE SOUEF. Melbourne.

Abnormal Clutches.—The accompanying photographs serve to illustrate the unusual clutch of four eggs of the Pied Oyster-catcher, *Hæmatopus ostralegus longirostris* (*Hæmatopus longirostris*), found by me on 13th December, 1914, at Mud Island, near the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, Victoria. The nest, which was just above high water mark, was a depression in the sand lined and surrounded by a few pieces of broken shell, and partly surrounded by a curved piece of decaying mangrove. Each egg was uniform both in shape, size, and coloration, practically



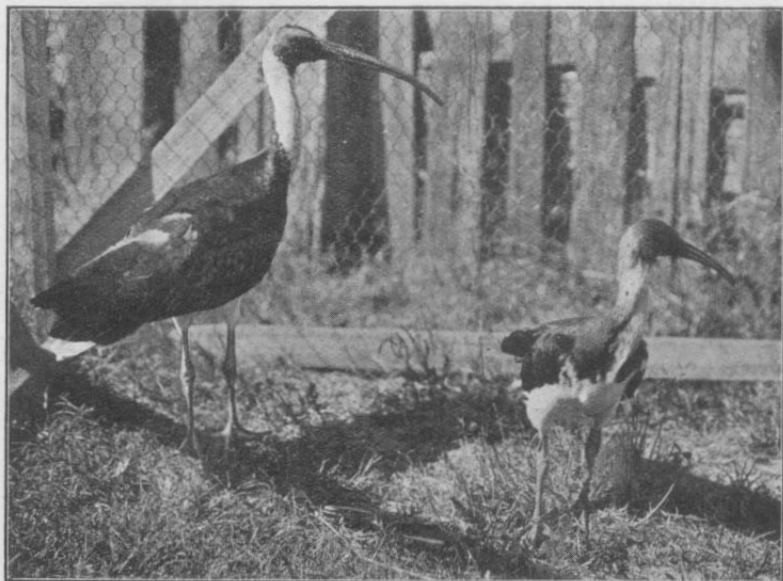
Abnormal Clutch of Pied Oyster-catcher (*Hæmatopus ostralegus longirostris*),
Mud Island, Port Phillip Bay, Victoria.

PHOTO, BY H. A. PURNELL, R.A.O.U., GEELONG.

proving that all the eggs were laid by the one bird. They were all slightly addled, and would not, therefore, have been hatched. The problem presented is as to whether the unusual number was too large for the bird to incubate successfully, or simply that the bird had neglected the eggs too long either in storms or in the search for food. After the eggs had been photographed and removed the bird returned and sat on the nest, so that the nest had not been actually forsaken. This problem often presents itself to the oologist. On 15th December, 1915, at Beaconsfield, on the Cardinia Creek, I found the nest of the Helmeted Honey-

eater (*Ptilotis cassidix*), containing a clutch of three eggs, which were slightly addled and cold, and the nest was sodden, proving that the bird had already forsaken it. These eggs are quite uniform in shape and colour, but one is slightly smaller than the others. This, I understand, is the first clutch of three eggs of this bird that has been found so far.—A. CHAS. STONE.

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Straw-necked Ibises (*Carphibis spinicollis*) at the Zoo. The adult has a bare head, the young has the head covered with down.

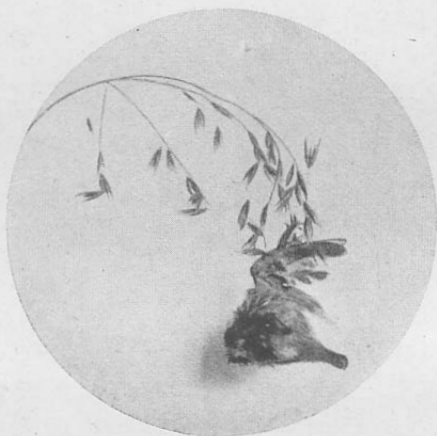
PHOTO. BY D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S., R.A.O.U.

Straw-necked Ibis.—Mr. Dudley Le Souëf, who is now recovering from an attack of influenza, utilizes his opportunities at the Zoological Gardens, Melbourne, to secure interesting and instructive pictures of birds. The accompanying photograph of Straw-necked Ibises shows the bare head of the adult, and the down-covered head of the young. The difference in the length of the bill is also interesting to students of bird phylogeny.

Black Swan.—Mr. Harry Burrell, R.A.O.U., continues to achieve success with his fine photographs of Australian wild life. We have pleasure in publishing a picture of the *rara avis*, the Black Swan, obtained by Mr. Burrell at Hacking River, Sydney.

* * *

A Bird Tragedy.—The accompanying photograph, by Mr. H. J. Bennett, head teacher Elementary School, Nanneella Estate, an irrigation settlement in northern Victoria, will interest bird-lovers. The victim, an Orange-fronted Bush-Chat (*Ephthianura aurifrons*)



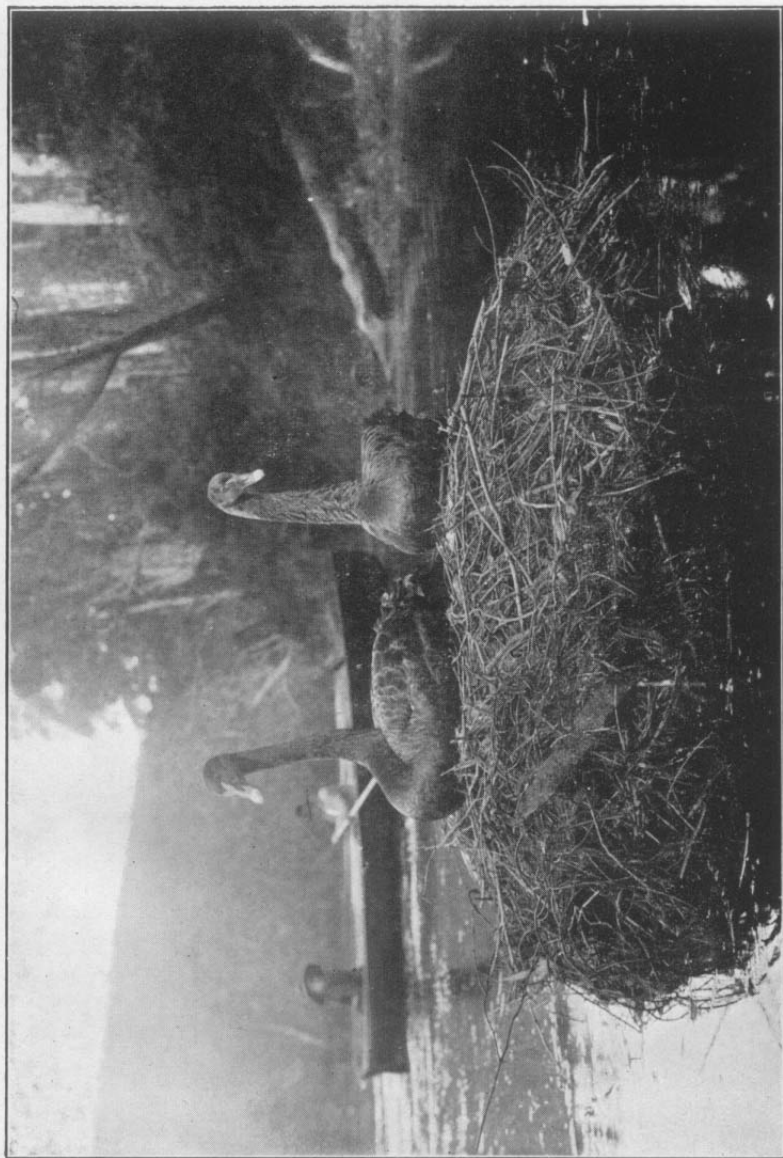
A Bird Tragedy.—An Orange-fronted Chat tangled in a wild oat plant.

PHOTO. BY H. J. BENNETT, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, NANNEELLA ESTATE, VICTORIA.

had become entangled in the long head of a wild oat plant, and could not free itself. An observant child discovered it too late, and brought the plant and bird to school as a nature study exhibit.

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Mr. Chandler's Bird Portraits.—Though Mr. L. G. Chandler has departed for the front as a private, he has left behind many beautiful photographic studies of living birds. We gladly seized the opportunity of presenting four of these to the readers of *The Emu*.



Black Swans and Nest, Hacking River, N.S.W.



Nest of the Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps australis*), Thule Lake, N.S.W.

PHOTO, BY D. LE SOUEF, C.M.Z.S., R.A.O.U.

Stray Feathers.

Bird Sanctuary.—We have great pleasure in stating that, through the instrumentality of Captain S. A. White, the President of the R.A.O.U., helped by other bird-lovers in South Australia, the Government of that State has proclaimed Carlot Lagoon a sanctuary for birds—an ideal place for that purpose, very many water-fowl nesting there.

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An Albino Eagle.—During June I secured a splendid live specimen of a white Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaëtus audax*, Lath.), and presented it to the Sydney Zoological Gardens, where it arrived safely, and is now on view. The bird appears to be full grown; it was captured (being too gorged to fly, probably) at Ridgeland, near Scone, New South Wales, and, I believe, is unique. With the exception of a brown-shaded feather in the wing, the bird is pure white, even to its beak, legs, and feet; eyes colourless, with dark-coloured pupils.—H. L. WHITE. Belltrees, Scone, N.S.W., 14/8/16.