

last one found was 1 foot 7 inches from the ground to the top of nest; the material dry native grass, as in the others, with a wool lining. There were three eggs reposing upon the wool, of a creamy-white ground, with burnt sienna spots at the larger end. These eggs measured, approximately, 1 inch in length by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter. The measurements of nest were:— $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches across top over all,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches across top inside one way by 2 inches the other,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches depth outside,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches depth egg cavity. Part of the rim was bound to *Lepidosperma* blades with strands of sheep's wool.—H. STUART DOVE, F.Z.S., R.A.O.U.

## Correspondence.

*To the Editors of "The Emu."*

SIRS,—The Executive Committee of the Advisory Council of Science and Industry have had brought to their notice the desirability of further knowledge as to the food of Australian birds. It has been suggested that if the stomachs of all wild birds shot were preserved and their contents identified by experts great additions to our knowledge would be made.

Mr. A. M. Lea, F.E.S., Entomologist of the South Australian Museum, is at present engaged on a research on this subject, with the assistance of other specialists in the identification of seeds, molluscs, &c. The committee consider that members of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union will no doubt be glad to assist Mr. Lea in this valuable work by forwarding him the stomachs of any birds they may shoot; all such assistance will be acknowledged by Mr. Lea when publishing his results.

After skinning a bird the stomach should be removed and placed in methylated spirit, together with a label giving the following particulars:—Name of bird (scientific name, if known), collector's name, locality, month and year. If several stomachs are placed in the same jar or tube of spirits, each stomach with its label should be wrapped and tied separately in a piece of muslin or cloth.

Birds whose stomachs are specially wanted by Mr. Lea are the Emu, Bustard or Wild Turkey, Native Companion, and Crows, but Mr. Lea desires it to be emphasized that he does not wish birds to be specially shot for the purpose of securing their stomachs.—Yours, &c.,

GERALD LIGHTFOOT,

Secretary Executive Committee Advisory Council of  
Science and Industry.

314 Albert-street, East Melbourne,  
29th June, 1917.

[It is expected that R.A.O.U. members will heartily co-operate by providing material for this important scientific research.—EDS.]

## FOOD OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

*To the Editors of "The Emu."*

DEAR SIRs,—Many details of a fragmentary nature have been published on the food of Australian birds, but at the present time a systematic examination of the contents of as many stomachs as possible is being made by Mr. A. M. Lea, F.E.S., the Adelaide Museum Entomologist, who has already listed the contents of about a thousand stomachs. He would be glad to receive bird stomachs from all parts of Australia. They could be sent to the Adelaide Museum in spirits, or in tins with rags saturated in spirits (so as to arrive in Adelaide in a damp condition). When sending the stomachs the following particulars are desired:—Name of bird (technical, if possible), month when obtained, locality, and collector's name. If the birds have been poisoned, it is also desirable to mention that fact. In particular, he would be glad to receive stomachs of large birds, but especially desires to state that he does not wish any birds to be specially killed for the purpose of this investigation.

Due credit will be given to all those who send stomachs when the results are published, and will be acknowledged as received.—  
Yours, &c., S. A. WHITE.

Wetunga, S.A., 14/5/17.

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*To the Editors of "The Emu."*

DEAR SIRs,—On page 175, vol. xvi., when referring to *Milligania robustirostris*, I gave Mr. Milligan credit for discovering this bird. Mr. Milligan described the bird, and gave credit to Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock for unearthing it.

In a recent letter Mr. Whitlock says:—"Possibly you did not know that the *Acanthiza* are quite absent from the Pilbarra Goldfields. I did not see a single example of any species on the Coongan, Nullagine, or De Grey Rivers. The same at Port Hedland and Condon on the coast." A little farther on Mr. Whitlock adds:—" *Acanthiza tenuirostris* is a bit of a puzzle in its distribution. In this State it seems to be confined to the interior, and only to haunt the samphire flats at the big salt lakes."—  
Yours, &c., F. E. HOWE.

Canterbury, 14/4/17.

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Stray Feathers.

**Taronga Park Notes.**—A white Emu received seven years ago has very gradually been turning brown, and has never developed the dark grey colour of the ordinary bird. One eye is white and the other is brown.

**White Eagle-Hawk.**—This bird, which was received about six months ago, had two or three brown feathers on it, but since then