

duller upper surface and much more restricted color patch on rump and tail than is typical of that species, indicating a change to a pallid race. However, it inhabits the timbered country only, and does not go on to the banksia moorlands, where the only birds met with are usually the Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Glyciphila melanops*), *Geobasilens h. winiamida*, and a Field-Wren (*Calamanthus*).

Nest.—Covered, with top-side entrance slightly hooded; composed chiefly of weather-beaten grass stems mixed with a few spiders' or insect cocoons; and warmly lined with small feathers. Interwoven in the body of the nest is an Emu-feather and its after-shaft. Upright diameter, 4½ in. (115 mm.); breadth, about 3 in. (75 mm.). Situated near the ground in a banksia bush.

Eggs.—Clutch, three; ovate in shape; texture of shell very fine; surface glossy; colour, white, minutely freckled or "dusted" with light brick red in the form of a zone round the apex. Dimensions in millimetres:—(1) 16 x 11½, (2) 15½ x 11½, (3) 15½ x 11½.

The eggs are suggestive of those of *A. reguloides*. Although the type specimens (having been discovered by Mr. Robert Oldfield, Winiam, Sept. 17, 1923), they were unfortunately too heavily incubated to make cabinet specimens.

Notes on the Tasmanian Emu.

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Just recently I have got into touch with one of the pioneer settlers of the Emu Bay district, about 30 miles west of Devonport, North-West Tasmania, and asked him if he had any information as to the naming of the Emu River and Bay, and whether these birds were in early days plentiful there. The naming of these localities long antedates my correspondent's recollections, which go back 60 years or so, but he has told me the circumstances from old records. It seems that H. Hellyer, the first surveyor of the Van Diemen's Land Co., was crossing the Hampshire Hills, which lie to the south of Emu Bay, when he came upon a stream, on the soft banks of which were the imprint of Emus' feet; after describing the course of the river, he says in his report:—"I have since named it the Emu." He afterwards traced the stream down to the coast, and finding that it fell into a large bay, named the latter Emu Bay; this was in February, 1827.

My correspondent at "The Bay," as it is familiarly called by old settlers, does not think that the birds were ever seen there, as it was all dense bush in the early days, whereas "the Hampshire" was more open and park-like, just the country that the Emu would frequent. My old friend also states that a couple of Tasmanian Emus were kept for some time

in captivity at the Van Diemen's Land Co.'s settlement at Circular Head (now Stanley), about 52 miles west of Emu Bay (now Burnie); but there seems to be no record as to what became of them.

In the *Tasmanian Mail* of Nov., 1922, there appeared some notes by Mr. B. R. Dyer, of Battery Point, Hobart, in which he says that his recollections extend back 65 years, and include the remembrance of two Tasmanian Emus on Mr. R. C. Kermode's estate, in front of the mansion at Mona Vale, in the Tasmanian Midlands; one of these knocked him down and trampled on him, until he was rescued by Mr. Kermode. Another of these island-natives was kept in a paddock in front of the women's quarters at the New Norfolk asylum. Mr. Dyer says that they were never plentiful, *a few on the plains of the North-West Coast, near Emu Bay*, and some at New Ground, near Marlborough, a few miles beyond New Norfolk.

If these captive birds of 1859 were undoubted island-natives, they must have been the last of the race, as the majority seem to have been killed off by 1850. The two skins in the British Museum collection (Ronald Gunn, collector) bear date 1845, and none of the Colonial Museums seems to have specimens. It is very remarkable that no efforts appear to have been made to preserve the remains of the Mona Vale and New Norfolk captives; although it must have been known that the species was on the point of extinction.

Our island bird is said to have been a little smaller and much darker than the mainland form.

In looking through James Fenton's *Bush Life in Tasmania Fifty Years Ago*, I have just come across another reference to our extinct species. It seems that Henry Hellyer, chief surveyor to the Van Diemen's Land Co., actually saw the birds themselves, as well as their footprints. He had gone into the totally unexplored country south-east of Circular Head, had ascended and named St. Valentine's Peak (14th February, 1827), discovered a river, and named the Surrey and Hampshire Hills. The natives had been burning large tracts of grass, and native huts were found, with several trees from which bark had been taken to cover them. On 15th February he writes:—"A brook runs across from the peak in a south-easterly direction, the banks of which are green with trefoil. About sunset, having routed some Emus, we fired at them without impeding their progress." Fenton comments:—"It is a very singular fact that those Emus have all disappeared from *some unknown cause*. I never saw any, and only heard of one being seen near the Leven, in 1839." As Fenton knew this coast in 1838, the birds must have suffered a very early extinction.