

## Description of a New *Microeca* from Northern Australia.

BY A. J. CAMPBELL.

MR. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., has been good enough to hand me for description a *Microeca* from the Northern Territory, forwarded by one of his collectors, which appears to be new, differing from the other familiar brown and white species by its entirely brownish tail and by its much stouter bill. On account of the former characteristic I would suggest the name *M. brunneicauda*, and in the vernacular Brown-tailed Flycatcher.

*Description.*—Whole of the upper surface olive-brown; under surface (including under tail coverts) white, slightly buffy about the throat and breast. There are some light-coloured facial markings, but the skin (which is also unsexed) is too much damaged to define them. Bill, feet, and eyes dark. Dimensions in inches :—Total length, 4.5 inches; bill, .41; wing, 2.8; tail, 2.2; tarsus, .7.

A nest and egg (the latter being distinguished from those of the other known members of the genus by its lighter colouring) will be described by Mr. Le Souëf, together with other northern eggs, in this issue.

# Descriptions of Birds'-eggs from the Port Darwin District, Northern Australia.

By D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S., &c.

## PART I.

THE eggs which form the subject of this paper have been collected for me by three different collectors, and skins of the parent birds sent to identify them by. Most have been described before, but chiefly from more southern districts, and it is interesting to compare the measurements with those of the same birds that breed in Southern Australia, for, as is well known, the further north certain birds range the smaller are their eggs.

ASTUR NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ, sub-species LEUCOSOMUS (Lesser White Hawk).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. i., p. 119.

The nest of this bird was found on 15th May, and it contained one fresh egg, the full clutch evidently not having been laid; it is without gloss and the inside lining green; the colour is bluish-white and sparingly marked over, except on the apex, where markings are plentiful, with rather small brown irregular spots, those under the surface being pale grey. The egg measures 1.84 x 1.40 inches.

## NINOX BOOBOOK, sub-species OCELLATA (Marbled Owl).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. ii., p. 170.

The nest of this Owl was found on 25th May, in a dead hollow spout of a eucalyptus tree, and the two eggs laid in the decayed wood at the bottom; they are dull white in colour, shell somewhat coarse and slightly pitted. They measure—(1) 1.66 x 1.26, (2) 1.60 x 1.25 inches. I do not think these eggs have been described before.

## STRIX NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ (Masked Owl).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. ii., p. 303.

A single egg of this bird was found on 20th June in a deep hollow in a eucalyptus tree, laid on the decayed wood at the lower end; it is dull white, finely pitted, and measures 1.79 x 1.40 inches. I think that this bird's egg is now described for the first time. Another example measures 1.96 x 1.58 inches.

## STRIX FLAMMEA, sub-species DELICATULA (Lesser Masked Owl).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. ii., p. 297.

Three nests of these beautiful birds were found on, 1st, 2nd, and 18th May; one had two eggs in and the others one each, and were situated in hollows in eucalyptus trees growing on the river bank; they are white, slightly glossy, finely pitted, and measure—A, 1.69 x 1.26; B, 1.78 x 1.29; C, (1) 1.58 x 1.16, (2) 1.56 x 1.16 inches.

## CORVUS CORONOIDES (Crow).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 20.

It is not difficult as a rule to separate Crows' eggs from those of the Raven (*Corone australis*), on account of their lighter colour, especially in the extreme north, although, so far, I have received no eggs or skins of Ravens from Northern Australia. The bulky stick nests of these birds are usually lined with fine rootlets, grass, or fine shreds of bark. The same nest is generally used year after year, and as a rule built high up and difficult of access. The ground colour of the eggs is very pale green, speckled with markings of greenish-brown, frequently more numerous on the larger end, but occasionally on the smaller. The markings are much lighter on some eggs than others, and in one clutch the eggs have only a very few pale greenish-brown spots on. They are glossy, and different clutches vary considerably in size. They measure—A, 1.84 x 1.21; B, (1) 1.58 x 1.16, (2) 1.55 x 1.9, (3) 1.62 x 1.16, (4) 1.64 x 1.18, (5) 1.54 x 1.16, (6) 1.42 x 1.14; C, 1.57 x 1.16; D, 1.57 x 1.14; E, 1.62 x 1.15 inches. The dates on which they were found were 11th December, 1st May, 8th, 15th, and 17th June.

## STRUTHIDEA CINEREA (Grey Jumper).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 140.

These interesting "family" birds, which, like the *Corcorax melanorhamphus*, construct a mud nest which is common to the

community, have a wide range, but the eggs of those in Northern Australia are smaller than those in the south. They are curiously marked with a few longitudinal spots of either brown or purple on the apex of the larger end of the egg only; the markings often look as if they had been painted on the bluish-white surface. They are slightly glossy, and measure—A, 1.14 x .71; B, (1) 1.2 x .68, (2) 1.7 x .67, (3) 1.9 x .67 inches. The dates, 16th November and 3rd December.

*ORIOLOUS AFFINIS* (Northern Oriole).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 188.

One nest of this bird was found on 17th November, and it contained a full clutch of three eggs, the open nest being suspended from a fork near the end of a branch and made of coarse grass. The eggs are cream colour, with blotches of purplish-brown, especially on the apex of the larger end, and purple markings under the surface. They are slightly glossy, and measure—(1) 1.30 x .84; (2) 1.28 x .88; (3) 1.27 x .88 inches.

*ORIOLOUS FLAVICINCTUS* (Yellow Oriole).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 206.

These birds also build a hanging, open nest of grass, fastened to a fork near the end of a branch, and they are plentiful in certain districts in Northern Australia. The ground colour of the eggs is light cream, in some cases almost white; the slightly glossy surface is marked with dark brown spots, in many cases almost black, and they are mostly plentiful at the larger end, occasionally forming an irregular zone; beneath the surface appear purple markings. The eggs of these birds are easily distinguishable from those of the Northern Oriole, as they are not blotched like the former, but spotted. The clutch consists of two only. The following are the dates on which some were found:—16th, 20th, 30th November; 1st, 6th, 7th (2), 8th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 24th December; and 3rd January. Six clutches measure—A, (1) 1.44 x .96, (2) 1.38 x .92; B, (1) 1.38 x .90, (2) 1.41 x .95; C, (1) 1.30 x .90 (2) 1.20 x .86; D, (1) 1.35 x .86, (2) 1.25 x .88; E, (1) 1.22 x .91, (2) 1.25 x .93 inches.

*SPHECOTHERES FLAVIVENTRIS* (Yellow-bellied Fig-Bird).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 225.

The open, shallow nests of these noisy birds are built of dark-coloured tendrils, through which the eggs can be seen from below, and are generally situated towards the end of a branch of some tall eucalyptus tree, and difficult to get at. The clutch is usually two, and the eggs are of an olive-green colour, with brown markings, which are usually most plentiful on the larger end, sometimes forming an irregular zone; occasionally an egg is speckled all over. The dates on which four clutches were

found are—8th, 9th, 30th December and 10th January; and the eggs measure—A, (1) 1.30 x .86, (2) 1.28 x .87; B, (1) 1.25 x .90, (2) 1.27 x .88; C, (1) 1.24 x .83, (2) 1.22 x .80; D, 1.26 x .84 inches.

CHIBIA BRACTEATA (Drongo).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 236.

These birds build an open nest of light-coloured rootlets, with lining of finer material. They lay from three to four eggs, which are of a pinkish white, with fine brown markings of various shades. Some are thickly freckled; others, again, have comparatively few markings. The spots under the surface are lilac. The dates on which four clutches were found are—28th November; 1st, 9th, and 10th December. The eggs measure—A, (1) 1.18 x .84, (2) 1.21 x .80; B, (1) 1.15 x .80, (2) 1.16 x .84, (3) 1.11 x .80; C, (1) 1.3 x .78, (2) 1.11 x .81, (3) 1.04 x .70; D, (1) 1.13 x .80, (2) 1.14 x .80, (3) 1.10 x .78 inches.

GRALLINA PICATA (Magpie Lark).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 272.

These graceful birds are very plentiful in Northern Australia in suitable localities. The eggs vary much in colour, from a creamy white to pink; the markings also vary from brown to reddish-brown. They are more plentiful on the larger end, the spots below the surface being dark purple. The birds lay in October, November, and December, and the eggs measure—A, (1) 1.14 x .84, (2) 1.10 x .81, (3) 1.10 x .84, (4) 1.15 x .84; B, (1) 1.02 x .78, (2) 1.04 x .80, (3) 1.04 x .78, (4) 1.08 x .86, (5) 1.05 x .78 inches.

COLLYRIOCINCLA BRUNNEA (Brown Shrike-Thrush).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 291.

The Brown Shrike-Thrush is found more or less in all the northern parts of Australia. It builds an open nest, composed generally of fibres of bark or rootlets, and lined with fine tendrils or grass. The eggs are white, and some have bold markings of dark brown scattered over the surface, with lilac markings beneath; others again are more finely freckled, with light brown spots and light grey markings beneath the surface. There are gradations between. Two nests were found, on 18th October and 2nd December. The eggs measure—A, (1) 1.18 x .73, (2) 1.20 x .74, (3) 1.20 x .74; B, (1) 1.02 x .78, (2) 1.03 x .77, (3) 1.04 x .76 inches. The eggs of the first clutch are abnormally long.

PINAROLESTES PARVULUS (Little Shrike-Thrush).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 296.

These birds are very plentiful in the Port Darwin district, being found mostly in the scrubby country. Their nests are strongly built, frequently of strips of melaleuca bark, but occasionally of coarse grass, the lining being generally small

rootlets. The eggs are a pale, pinkish-buff, with little variation, and plentifully marked with purplish-brown spots, especially on the larger end, and are easily distinguishable from those of the other *Collyriocinclæ*. All the clutches were found in January and February. The eggs measure—A, (1) 1.4 x .76, (2) 1.3 x .75; B, (1) .95 x .71, (2) .96 x .72; C, (1) 1.1 x .74, (2) 1.1 x .71 inches.

*MICRÆCA BRUNNEICAUDA* (Brown-tailed Flycatcher).

The nest and egg of this new Flycatcher were found on 19th December, situated on the fork of a horizontal branch. The nest is composed of fine shreds of bark of the melaleuca tree, intermixed with grass, and is lined with fine grass, and covered externally with cobweb. Its interior measurements are— $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in depth; breadth,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches; exterior—depth,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches; breadth,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. It is very similar to those of the other *Micræcæ*. The egg has a very pale creamy-white ground colour, well marked with small cloudy spots of light purplish-buff, and measures .63 x .49 inch. The nest and eggs have not been previously described, nor has the bird, which I have asked Mr. Campbell to describe in another part of this number.

*SISURA NANA* (Little Flycatcher).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iv., p. 408.

Two nests of this delicate little bird were found, each with one fresh egg in, but the full clutch is probably three. They were composed of shreds of melaleuca bark, intermixed with grass, and lined with fine grass-stalks and dark-coloured tendrils, and were situated in the upright fork on a branch of a dead shrub. They measure—interior, depth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches; exterior, depth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The eggs measure—A, .70 x .52; B, .64 x .50 inch, and the ground colour of one is white and the other a pale cream. They each have a zone round the larger end, composed of light reddish-brown confluent markings, and very few on the rest of the egg. The markings beneath the surface are light purple. The nests were found on 9th and 15th January.

*PŒCILODRYAS CERVINIVENTRIS* (Buff-sided Robin).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iv., p. 242.

This interesting Robin enjoys a northern habitat, and three of its nests were discovered with fresh eggs in. Two of the nests had one in and the other two, the dates being 30th December, 18th and 19th January. They are composed chiefly of curled vine tendrils or shreds of bark, lined with finer tendrils or rootlets, a little cobweb being placed on the outside. They measure—interior, depth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth 2 inches; exterior, depth 2 inches, breadth 3 inches. The eggs are pale green with reddish-brown markings, in one case chiefly

on the larger end, and in another principally on the smaller; one egg has cloudy purplish-buff markings; those beneath the surface are lilac. They measure—A, (1) .74 x .55, (2) .73 x .55; B, .72 x .55; C, .70 x .54 inch.

**CHLAMYDERA NUCHALIS** (Great Bower-Bird).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. vi., p. 391.

Four nests of these birds were discovered, containing one egg each, although two are occasionally found. The dates are 9th and 17th October and 3rd and 19th November. The ground colour of the eggs is pale cream, with hair-like brown and reddish-brown markings, which appear as if they have been wound round and round in a very irregular fashion; many of the lines seem to go all ways. The egg is glossy, and measures 1.84 x 1.14 inches.

**POMATORHINUS RUBECULUS** (Red-breasted Babbler).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. vii., p. 421.

Nests and eggs of this bird were found on 29th September, 21st October, and 21st January. The nests were the usual large, domed, stick structures, and contained from two to three eggs, the colour being greyish-brown with reddish-brown lines, often crossing one another. One clutch measures—(1) 1.01 x .73; (2) 1.02 x .72 inches.

**CRATICUS NIGRIGULARIS**, sub-species **PICATUS** (Pied Butcher-Bird).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. viii., p. 96.

These birds generally go in pairs and build their open stick nests in eucalyptus trees in open forest country. Their eggs are a light greyish-green colour, with brown markings, mostly on the larger end, and measure—(1) 1.23 x .85; (2) 1.26 x .87; (3) 1.25 x .88 inches.

**PACHYCEPHALA SIMPLEX** (Brown Thickhead).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. viii., p. 219.

Two nests of this bird were found, one on 23rd January and the other on 6th February, and one contained two eggs, the other one. The nest is an open structure composed of long pieces of coarse grass, lined with the feathery seed-top of some kind of grass and a few white feathers. It measures—internal depth, 2 inches, breadth 2 inches; external depth, 2¼ inches, breadth 4 inches. It was situated in a partially horizontal fork of a dense bush. The eggs are pale buff, with spots of dark brown, rather more numerous on the larger end. The markings under the surface, which are also numerous, are lilac. The measurements are—A, (1) .92 x .62, (2) .88 x .60; B, .85 x .62 inches. These eggs have not been previously described.

**CLIMACTERIS MELANURA** (Black Tree-Creeper).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. viii., p. 334.

The nest of this bird was a considerable distance down a hollow spout in a eucalyptus tree, and contained three eggs, which are round in form, the ground colour light pink, thickly speckled all over with reddish-brown spots, which are more numerous on the larger end and are there confluent. They measure—(1) .86 x .74; (2) .84 x .72; (3) .87 x .76 inches. Date, 19th September.

**SITTELLA STRIATA** (Striated Tree-Runner).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. viii., p. 364.

These interesting little birds are only found in Northern Australia, and one of their nests was discovered on 17th September. It was the usual beautiful structure, similar to the other Sittellas, being mostly made of cobwebs and covered on the outside with small longitudinal pieces of bark, and built in the upright fork of a eucalyptus tree. The eggs are white, and boldly marked all over, especially at the larger end, with dark slate-coloured cloudy spots. They measure—(1) .68 x .51; (2) .66 x .51; (3) .67 x .50 inches.

**MYZOMELA PECTORALIS** (Banded Honey-eater.)

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. ix., p. 138.

These lively little birds prefer the open forest country, especially where the timber is stunted. One of their open suspended nests was found on 24th November, and contained two eggs. These are of a pale reddish colour, with markings of a slightly darker hue, most plentiful on the larger end, where they generally form a zone. The eggs measure—(1) .65 x .47; (2) .66 x .48 inch.

**MELITHREPTUS LUNULATUS**, sub-species **ALBIGULARIS** (White-throated Honey-eater).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. ix., p. 205.

The suspended nest of this Honey-eater was found on 26th October, and contained two eggs of a pale reddish colour, with light reddish-brown markings, especially round the larger end, where they are confluent. The eggs measure—(1) .71 x .53; (2) .72 x .54 inch.

**ENTOMOPHILA RUFIGULARIS** (Red-throated Honey-eater).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. ix., p. 219.

These little birds are very plentiful, and many of their suspended nests were found, the dates being from December to February. The eggs vary very little in markings or colour, being white, thickly speckled all over, especially on the larger end, with reddish-brown dots, the full clutch being three. They



measure—A, (1) .68 x .48, (2) .69 x .46, (3) .70 x .47; B, (1) .70 x .49, (2) .69 x .48, (3) .66 x .47 inch.

*PTILOTTIS UNICOLOR* (White-gaped Honey-eater).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. ix., p. 249.

Three nests of this bird were found, on 17th September, 19th December, and 12th January respectively. They were composed of frayed-out grass, portions of spiders' nests, and fine rootlets, were lined with fine grass, and measured—internal depth,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; breadth,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The eggs are white, with a few light reddish-brown markings, especially on the larger end, where they form an irregular zone. They measure—A, (1) .90 x .64, (2) .93 x .73; B, .88 x .69; C, (1) .89 x .59, (2) .90 x .60 inch.

*ENTOMYZA ALBIPENNIS* (White-quilled Honey-eater).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. ix., p. 269.

These birds, as a rule, build their grass nests inside that of a *Pomatorhinus*. Their eggs are a light salmon-pink, but occasionally some are almost white, probably a second clutch. They have a few rich dark brown markings, mostly on the larger end and well on the apex. They vary in size, some being elongated and others nearly round. Three clutches measure—A, (1) 1.04 x .80, (2) .96 x .82, (3) 1 x .81; B, (1) 1.08 x .84, (2) 1.10 x .82; C, (1) 1.23 x .82, (2) 1.16 x .80 inches. The dates are—17th, 28th October, and 5th November.

*PARDALOTUS MELANOCEPHALUS* (Black-headed Pardalote).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. x., p. 60.

A nest at the end of a burrow belonging to these birds was found on 17th September. The eggs are, as usual, white and rounded, and measure:—(1) .68 x .54, (2) .68 x .51, (3) .72 x .55, (4) .70 x .51 inch.

*MIRAFRA SECUNDA* (Lesser Bush-Lark).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xiii., p. 603.

Three nests of these birds were found, on 1st, 11th, and 23rd January, each with two eggs in. The nest is an open structure, built of shreds of bark and grass, and was placed on the ground beside a tussock of grass, which partly concealed it. It measures—internal depth 1 inch, breadth 2 inches; external depth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The eggs are glossy, and greenish white in colour, thickly marked all over, especially on the larger end, with dark olive-green markings. The freckles are more numerous on some eggs than on others. They measure—A, (1) .76 x .56, (2) .73 x .58; B, (1) .68 x .54, (2) .72 x .55; C, (1) .70 x .54, (2) .71 x .53 inch.

*PITTA IRIS* (Rainbow Pitta).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xiv., p. 444.

These beautiful Pittas are plentiful in this district in the

scrub, and build their loose nests of grass and fibres on the ground, generally alongside a log or stone. Their eggs are easily distinguishable from those of other Pittas, being white, with a few very dark brown and almost black markings, mostly on the larger end; some have many more markings than others. The spots beneath the surface are lilac. Four is a full clutch. They are glossy, and measure—A, (1) 1.01 x .85, (2) 1.03 x .84, (3) 1 x .83, (4) 1 x .85; B, (1) 1 x .80, (2) 1.01 x .81, (3) 1.03 x .81, (4) 1.06 x .78 inch. The dates are from December to February.

**EUROSTOPUS GUTTATUS** (Spotted Nightjar).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xvi., p. 608.

Only two eggs of this bird were found, laid, as usual, on the bare ground on a stony ridge, on the 17th and 21st October. They are a delicate green with a few dark markings on, and measure—A, 1.31 x .93; B, 1.29 x .91 inches.

**ALCYONE AZUREA**, sub-species **PULCHRA** (Purple Kingfisher).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xvii., p. 169.

On 13th and 23rd April two nests were found in a burrow in the bank of a stream, with five eggs in each nest. They are a beautiful glossy white, rounded in form, and measure—(1) .76 x .68; (2) .80 x .72; (3) .81 x .71; (4) .81 x .72; (5) .82 x .68 inch. The measurements of the second clutch are almost identical.

**TRICHOGLOSSUS RUBRITORQUES** (Red-collared Lorikeet).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xx., p. 60.

Several nests of these birds were found in hollow spouts in eucalyptus trees, the eggs being laid on the decomposed wood, and they soon get stained. They are rounded and pure white, with no gloss, and measure—A, (1) 1.01 x .85, (2) 1.02 x .84; B, (1) 1.05 x .86, (2) 1.02 x .83; C, (1) 1.03 x .85, (2) 1.01 x .84 inches. The dates on which they were found are 22nd December, 6th January, and 6th April.

**CACATUA GALERITA** (White Cockatoo).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xx., p. 116.

Three nests of these birds were found, on 2nd and 22nd May and 2nd July, and each contained one egg. They are pure white, elongated in form, and measure—A, 1.92 x 1.27; B, 1.82 x 1.30; C, 1.70 x 1.22 inches.

**PLATYCERCUS BROWNI** (Smutty Parrakeet).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xx., p. 549.

A nest of this bird was found on 1st July with one fresh egg in, the full clutch probably not having been laid. The egg was deposited on the decomposed wood at the bottom of a hollow in a branch of a eucalyptus tree. It is white, slightly glossy, somewhat rounded in shape, and measures .99 x .82 inch.

**PSEPHOTUS CHRYSOPTERYGIUS** (Golden-shouldered Parrakeet).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xx., p. 565.

This beautiful bird is only found in Northern Australia, and its nest was discovered on 16th December, the egg being laid at the end of a hollow dead branch of a eucalyptus tree on the earthy substance. There was only one fresh egg, the rest apparently not having been laid. It is pure white, glossy, and rounded, and measures .86 x .72 inches.

**GEOPHAPS SMITHI** (Naked-eyed Partridge-Pigeon).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxi., p. 532.

The habits of this Pigeon are very similar to those of *G. scripta*. Its two very pale cream-coloured eggs are laid on the ground in a slight nest made of grass, or sometimes on a tussock of grass. The dates on which three nests were found are 10th December, 2nd and 3rd July. The eggs are somewhat oval, slightly glossy, and measure—A, (1) 1.13 x .84, (2) 1.12 x .81; B, (1) 1.08 x .80, (2) 1.12 x .80; C, 1.08 x .83 inches.

**TURNIX CASTANONOTA** (Chestnut-backed Quail).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxii., p. 552.

These birds make their nests on the ground, either close alongside a tussock of grass or where the grass grows long, especially in the neighbourhood of water. The full clutch seems to be four. The eggs are rounded, glossy, and finely pitted, and when rubbed together produce a sound like china marbles, in common with most other Quails' eggs; they are greenish white, and some are boldly speckled with very dark brown or almost black markings, especially on the larger end, while others have much smaller faint spots of purplish-brown. The markings beneath the surface appear grey. The eggs vary somewhat in size, and measure (see illustration)—A, (1) 1.09 x .82, (2) 1.10 x .81, (3) 1.10 x .80, (4) 1.08 x .79; B, (1) 1.02 x .79, (2) 1.03 x .79, (3) 1 x .78, (4) .93 x .79; C, (1) .94 x .75, (2) .98 x .80, (3) .93 x .78, (4) .96 x .75 inches. Dates—3rd, 4th, 13th, and 30th January.

**TURNIX PYRRHOTHORAX** (Red-chested Quail).

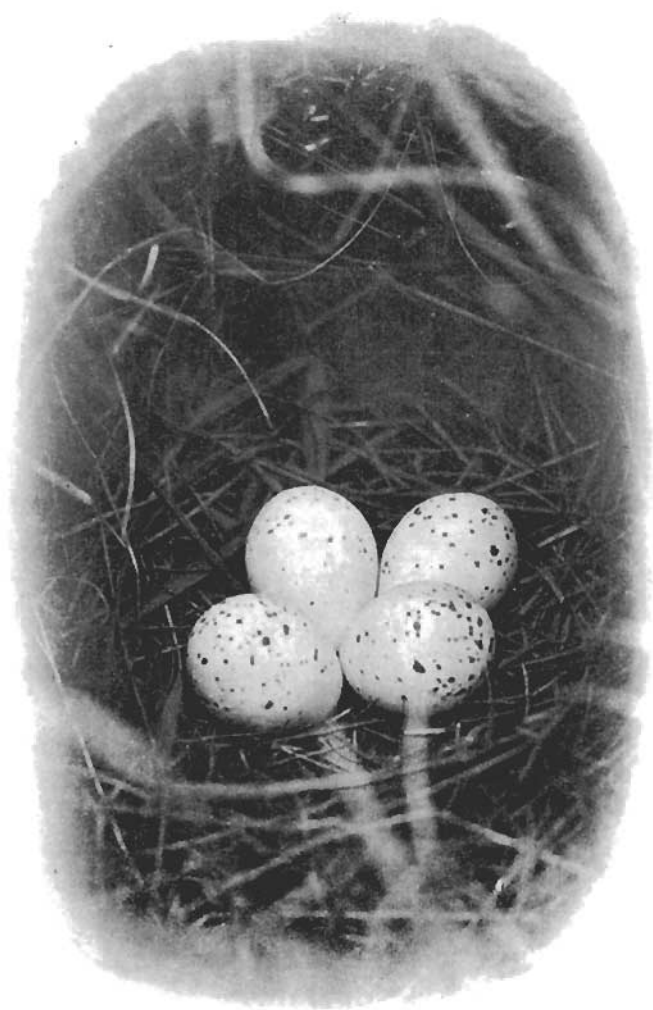
Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxii., p. 553.

A nest of this Quail was found on 26th September, made close to a tussock of grass, which completely screened it from observation. The eggs are rounded, and, as usual in Quails' eggs, much pointed at one end. They are a creamy white, and thickly freckled with rather fine markings of reddish brown, especially on the larger end, where they are confluent. They measure—(1) .90 x .75; (2) .94 x .71 inch.

**AMAURORNIS MOLUCCANA** (Rufous-tailed Rail).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxiii., p. 153.

The nest of this bird, containing three eggs, was found on



Eggs of Chestnut-backed Quail (*Turnix castanonota*).

FROM A PHOTO. BY D. LE SUEF.

20th April, and was composed of coarse grass and other herbage, and measured in breadth  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The eggs are buffy-white, slightly glossy, and have dark brown markings, especially at the larger end, those beneath the surface being lilac. They measure—(1)  $1.40 \times 1.07$ ; (2)  $1.32 \times 1.06$ ; (3)  $1.35 \times 1.01$  inches.

PLATALEA REGIA (Black-billed Spoonbill).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvi., p. 47.

These birds are fairly plentiful in Northern Australia. They nest in the swamps, frequently in company with Ibises, and make their nests on broken-down reeds and shrubs. The eggs soon get nest-stained, and are chalky-white, with a few brown markings, generally most numerous on the larger end. They are elongated in shape, and not so rounded as *P. flavipes*. They measure—(1)  $2.68 \times 1.60$ ; (2)  $2.55 \times 1.70$ ; (3)  $2.55 \times 1.59$ ; (4)  $2.54 \times 1.74$  inches.

XENORHYNCHUS ASIATICUS (Black-necked Stork, or Jabiru).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvi., p. 310.

These birds build very large stick nests on trees growing in or near a swamp. They lay three or four finely pitted white eggs. The dates on which four nests and eggs were found are 9th and 11th May, 2nd and 11th June. The eggs measure—A, (1)  $2.86 \times 2.06$ , (2)  $2.92 \times 2.10$ ; B, (1)  $2.98 \times 2.05$ , (2)  $2.72 \times 2.07$  inches.

NETTOPUS PULCHELLUS (Green Goose-Teal.)

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvii., p. 67.

A nest of these beautiful little Geese was found on 10th February, and contained nine light cream-coloured eggs, which are smooth and glossy, and oval in shape. They measure—(1)  $1.70 \times 1.38$ ; (2)  $1.67 \times 1.35$ ; (3)  $1.64 \times 1.36$ ; (4)  $1.66 \times 1.36$ ; (5)  $1.67 \times 1.36$ ; (6)  $1.62 \times 1.35$ ; (7)  $1.60 \times 1.39$ ; (8)  $1.63 \times 1.38$ ; (9)  $1.62 \times 1.40$  inches.

DENDROCYCNA ARCUATA (Whistling-Duck.)

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvii., p. 153.

Three nests of this bird were found on 1st and 7th February and 1st May. They contained 9, 6, and 3 eggs, which are glossy and smooth, and of a creamy-white, and, although fresh, were much nest-stained. They measure—(1)  $2.01 \times 1.54$ ; (2)  $2.02 \times 1.53$ ; (3)  $2.04 \times 1.57$ ; (4)  $2.05 \times 1.54$ ; (5)  $2.03 \times 1.56$ ; (6)  $2.06 \times 1.53$ ; (7)  $2.04 \times 1.55$ ; (8)  $2.05 \times 1.54$ ; (9)  $2.01 \times 1.53$  inches.

DENDROCYCNA EYTONI (Plumed Whistling-Duck).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvii., p. 165.

The colour of the eggs of this Duck is white, and they are very similar to those of the preceding species, being smooth and slightly glossy. Three clutches of eggs were found, on 24th and

25th April and 9th March, and contained 10, 8, and 6 eggs. The clutch of 10 measure—(1) 1.85 x 1.52; (2) 2.1 x 1.54; (3) 1.88 x 1.46; (4) 1.89 x 1.50; (5) 1.90 x 1.52; (6) 1.93 x 1.51; (7) 1.92 x 1.54; (8) 1.94 x 1.52; (9) 1.91 x 1.50; (10) 1.91 x 1.50 inches.

TADORNA RADJAH (White-headed Shieldrake).

Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xxvii., p. 175.

The eggs of this splendid Duck are very light in colour, being of a very pale cream. They are smooth and slightly glossy. The birds usually lay in a hollow in a tree, but not invariably. The dates on which some clutches were found are 2nd February, 4th, 6th, and 24th April, 1st and 21st May; and the number of eggs varies from 4 to 11. Two small clutches measure—A, (1) 2.28 x 1.64, (2) 2.34 x 1.55, (3) 2.34 x 1.61, (4) 2.41 x 1.64, (5) 2.32 x 1.62, (6) 2.37 x 1.64; B, (1) 2.31 x 1.68, (2) 2.28 x 1.65, (3) 2.29 x 1.68, (4) 2.31 x 1.66 inches.