

WESTERN WHITE-EARED HONEY-EATER (*Ptilotis nova-norciæ*).—My first introduction to this handsome species was in the winter of 1906. I was out kangaroo-hunting, and while going through a thicket of bastard jam-wood and mallee I heard the notes of a bird which in the distance resembled the call of an English Partridge. However, on approaching nearer the resemblance ceased, and the call was accompanied by a mellow whistle. On the following morning I went out to the place, and succeeded in obtaining a specimen. Since then I have often seen and heard the bird in similar localities.

SINGING HONEY-EATER (*Ptilotis sonora*).—Fairly common.

YELLOW-PLUMED HONEY-EATER (*P. ornata*).—This is decidedly the commonest Honey-eater in the district.

DUSKY MINER (*Myzantha obscura*).—Common.

RED WATTLE-BIRD (*Acanthochæra carunculata*).—Common.

LITTLE WATTLE-BIRD (*Anellobia lunulata*).—Occasionally seen.

SPINY-CHEEKED HONEY-EATER (*Acanthogenys ruficularis*).—Common.

PIBIT (*Anthus australis*).—Common, varying in colour according to the soil.

CHESTNUT-EARED FINCH (*Tæniopygia castanotis*).—Common.

YELLOW-SPOTTED BOWER-BIRD (*Chlamydodera guttata*).—I saw a bird which I put down as belonging to this species in the latter part of 1908, but was not able to obtain it.

CROW (*Corvus coronoides*).—Common all the year round. This bird is a regular curse during lambing time, when it will settle on new-born lambs and ewes that are down and pick their eyes out while they are alive.

LEADEN CROW-SHRIKE (*Strepera plumbea*).—This bird, usually known as the "Squeaker," on account of its note, is decidedly common.

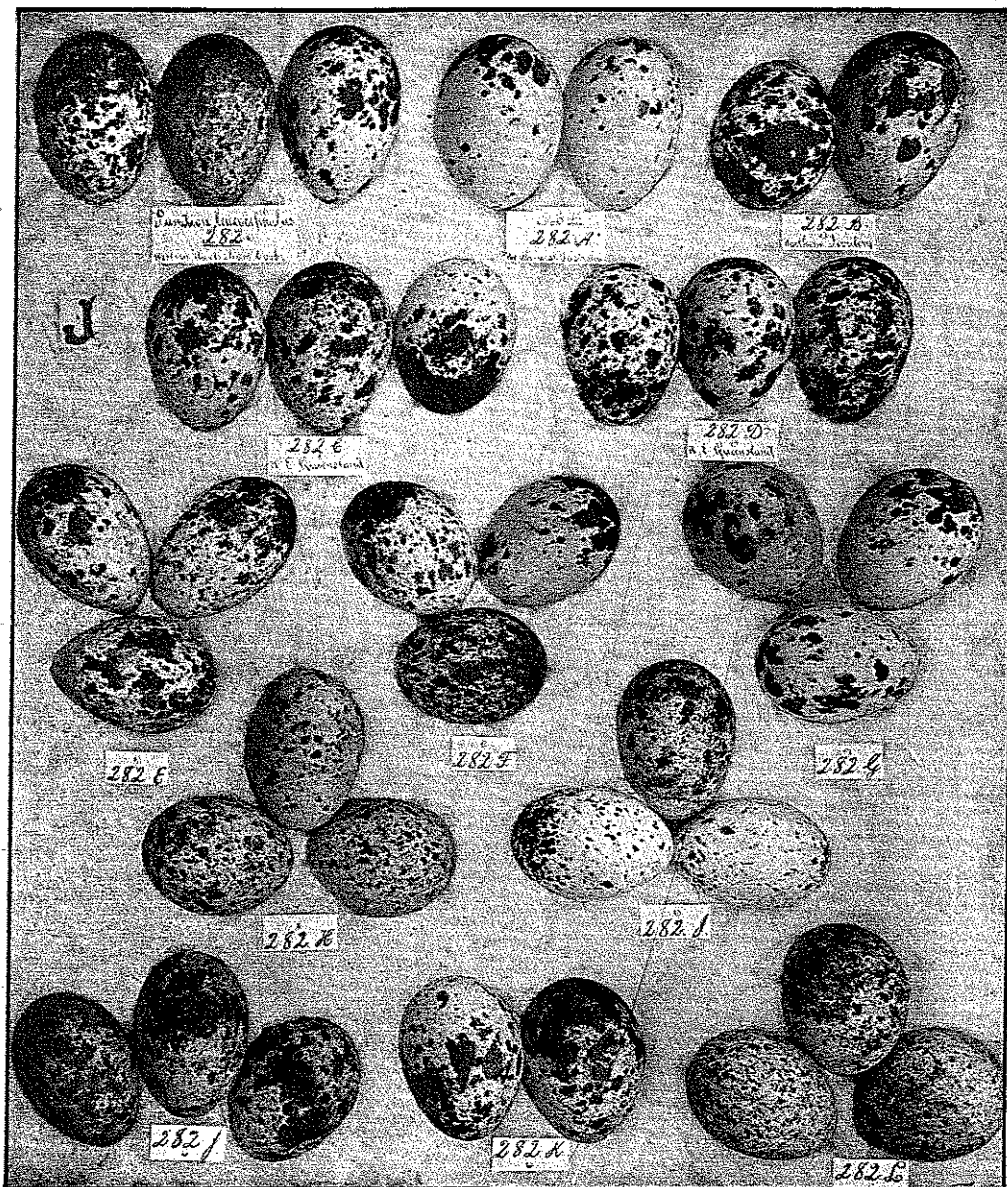
The White Oological Collection.

BY D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S., &c., MELBOURNE.

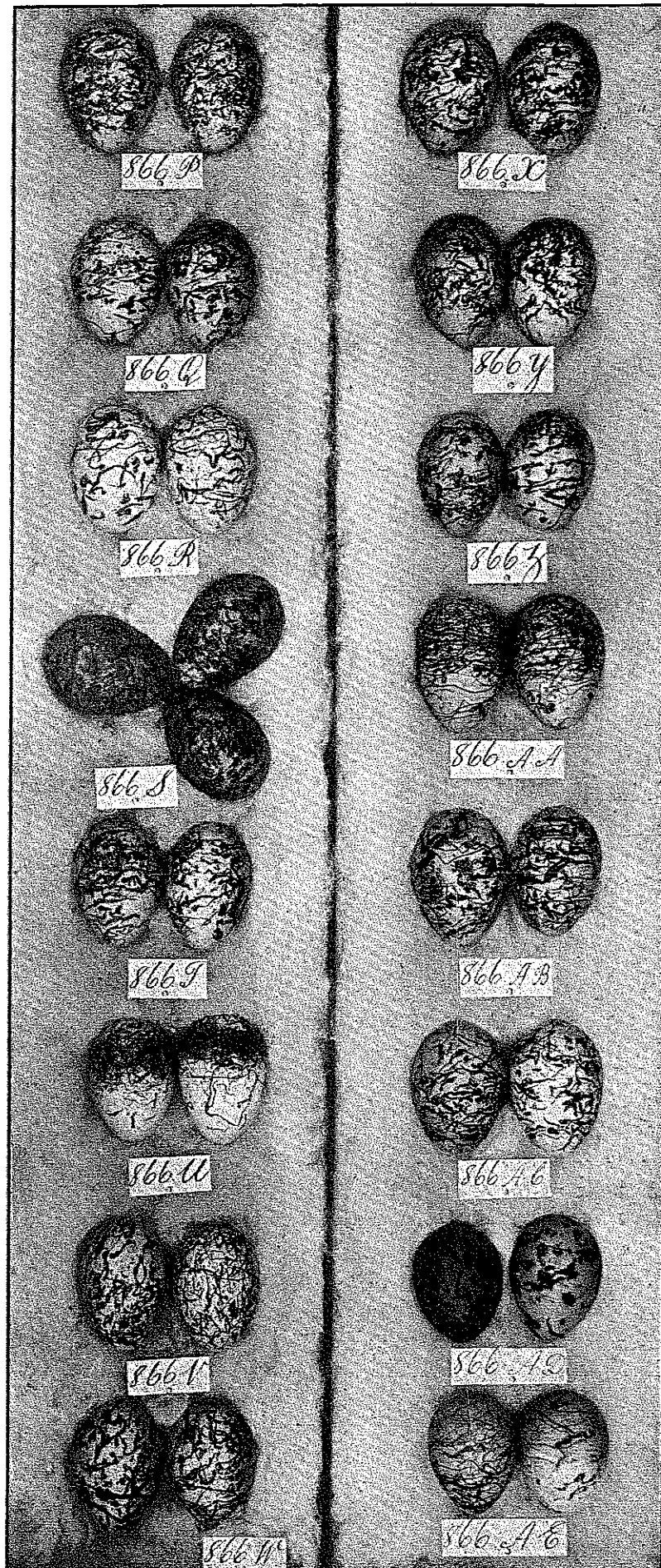
WITH much pleasure I lately visited Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees Station, near Scone, New South Wales.

Mr. White is the possessor of a splendid collection of Australian birds' eggs, there being no similar Australian collection extant, and it is still growing fast. The eggs are all in clutches, in perfect condition, and with full data. The illustrations of two of the drawers, one containing Ospreys' and the other Regent-Birds' eggs, will give some idea as to what the collection is like, especially when we remember that there are many similar drawers, some of which we hope to illustrate by colour photography later on in *The Emu*. The labelling of the clutches is excellent, as on the label of the first clutch of each series is the name, as well as three numbers, one referring to the name in Mathew's "Handlist," another to A. J. Campbell's work ("Nests and Eggs"), and the third to Mr. White's own data-book.

Of the eggs it is difficult to speak, over 800 species being



Series of Ospreys' (*Pandion leucocephalus*) Eggs in the
Collection of Mr. H. L. White.



Series of Regent-Birds' (*Sericulus melinus*) Eggs in the Collection of Mr. H. L. White.

represented, and in many of them are splendid series, showing diversified types, such as of *Cracticus*, *Gymnorhina*, *Corvus*, *Strepera*, *Oriolus*, *Chibia*, *Grallina*, *Collyriocincla*, *Graucalus*, *Sericulus*, *Ptilonorhynchus*, *Entomyza*, *Philemon*, and many others, as well as specimens of the Golden Bower-Bird (*Prionodura*), Tooth-billed Bower-Bird (*Scenopæetes*) and *Ardea sumatrana*. There are many "type" eggs, as well as several unique sets, but the best way to appreciate the collection is to see it for one's self, and Mr. White deserves the thanks of all oologists for getting together such a magnificent scientific collection, which will become simply invaluable as time goes on, because many of the birds will become scarce, if not extinct, through the country being cleared for cultivation. The collection of nests is also excellent. Personally I consider the nest is just as much part of the bird's natural economy as the eggs. The data-book or catalogue is quite a monumental work. Not only is full data given of each clutch of eggs, but also the measurements of each egg. Great credit is due to Mr. Sid. W. Jackson, who has systematically arranged and labelled the eggs in the cabinets and also compiled the catalogue. He performs his work enthusiastically, and does everything very thoroughly.

Belltrees is an ideal home for a naturalist. It was in that neighbourhood that Gould worked for some time and got so many of his type specimens of birds. It was a great pleasure to me to go over the same ground that was traversed by the great ornithologist, to whom ornithologists owe so much. The country is much diversified, has a fair amount of timber, with steep hills, and the Hunter and other rivers winding in and out among them. Native game, such as wallaroo, kangaroos, wallabies, rat kangaroos, &c., also abound, but are being rapidly thinned out for the sake of their skins.

Mr. White states that the Scrub-Turkey (*Catheturus lathamii*) is to be found in some of the thickly timbered gullies that lead to the higher land.

I noticed that the European Starling had found its way there, and many of them roosted in a dense thicket of bamboos at the river's edge near the homstead.

AN AUSTRALIAN'S PROMOTION.—News has been received of the call to the English bar in Trinity term at Gray's Inn of Mr. Charles F. Belcher, M.A., LL.B. Mr. Belcher, who was born in Geelong, and is a son of Mr. George F. Belcher, obtained first-class honours in his final examination, being placed fourth out of 124 candidates, a distinction which carries with it a certificate of honour and a prize of £50 from the benchers of the Inns of Court. For a year or two Mr. Belcher was one of the co-editors of *The Emu*. His brother ornithologists will be glad to learn of his success in London.