

ever, on examination I found that the Thrush had built its nest, composed of coarse pieces of bark and fibre, inside the old nest of the Babbler, and that its three fresh eggs had been broken by the fall. This incidentally confirms Mr. A. J. Campbell's supposition in "Nests and Eggs," page 92. Although this species of Shrike-Thrush is very common in this district, I have so far only seen one other nest, and that was about 10 feet from the ground, built in the fork of a jam-tree, and contained two fresh eggs on 21st October, 1907. It is a curious coincidence that the two nests should have been found on the same day of the same month.

X 22nd October.—Observed small young in down of *Zonifer tricolor*.—TOM CARTER. Wensleydale, 31/10/10.

Y P.S.—7th November.—Black-and-White Fantail.—Apparently the same pair of birds has now a second clutch of three eggs in the nest built on the flood-gate.—T. C.

### From Magazines, &c.

BIRD'S NEST IN SHEEP'S WOOL.—Mortlake, Tuesday.—While a sheep was being sheared on Mr. A. Burger's farm, Telanga, near Penshurst, a Starling's nest was found in the wool. The nest had one egg in it.—*Age*, 23/11/10.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.—Following some observations made in *The Emu*, vol. x., p. 58, respecting an article by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant (*Ibis*, October, 1909), Mr. Tom Carter, who possesses considerable local knowledge, both ornithological and geographical, has further criticised the latter at some length in *The Ibis* for October, 1910. Referring to a supposed egg of *Climacteris wellsi* (Grant) in Mr. A. J. Campbell's collection, a description is given in a footnote hereunder,\* also descriptions of the eggs of *Certhionyx occidentalis* (Grant).

### Reviews.

["The Birds of Dumfries-shire," by Hugh S. Gladstone, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Witherby and Co., London. Price, 25s. net.]

THIS handsome volume is an addition to the county avifaunas with which British ornithologists are so well provided. Its author, who was well equipped for his pleasant work, has been able to make his "contribution to the fauna of the Solway area" of permanent value by the co-operation of careful observers in

\* Egg indistinguishable from that of *C. rufa*, but slightly smaller—dimensions, .92 x .74 inches. Eggs of *Certhionyx occidentalis* may be described as oval in form, slightly glossy, light buffy-white in colour, finely spotted with dark brown or umber, with dull underlying markings of grey. Not unlike eggs of *Artamus sordidus*. Dimensions in inches:—(1) .92 x .66, (2) .9 x .66, (3) .9 x .65.—A. J. C.

different parts of Dumfries-shire. To ornithologists in the British Isles, the book, which is a model of what such a work should be, must prove indispensable. Each species occurring in the Solway area is dealt with exhaustively, and the introductory chapters furnish general details regarding physical features of the district, climate, &c. The illustrations are numerous, and good, save those which depict stuffed birds, and of this class there are more than could be desired. But this is a slight blemish on a valuable work. Writing of the Common Sandpiper (*Totanus hypoleucus*), the author says that the birds arrive at their nesting-haunts about the third week in April, leaving late in July or early in August, and "after a brief sojourn of a week or two on the coast, depart to their more southerly winter quarters." He mentions the fact that the species, in winter, is found in Australia, as far south as Tasmania.

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[“Life of William MacGillivray, by Wm. MacGillivray, W.S. With a Scientific Appreciation by J. Arthur Thomson. London: John Murray. Price, 10s. 6d. net.]

To write the life of such a man as William MacGillivray—the “accurate MacGillivray,” as Darwin called him—a sympathetic pen was needed, and the great British ornithologist has been fortunate in his biographer. The little volume under notice sketches the boyhood and career of MacGillivray, and the scientific value of his work is brought out in Prof. Thomson’s lucid “appreciation.”

The future historian of British birds was born at Old Aberdeen in 1796, his father being a surgeon in the army, and when three years of age he was taken to live on a farm on the island of Harris, where he received his early education and commenced to look on nature with delight. In a poem he himself says, “The solitudes of nature were my school.” When only twelve years old he entered Aberdeen College, and, taking his M.A. degree, began the study of medicine. In 1816 he commenced the study of botany, and subsequently devoted attention to ornithology, geology, and other branches of natural history. In fact, he at one period or other of his life took all nature for his province, but ornithology became his favourite study, and he will be remembered by his “History of British Birds.” He was an open-air naturalist, religious, and with a strain of poetry in his nature, but he was also a scientist. “MacGillivray,” says Prof. Thomson, “must be given a very high place, for three reasons:—(1) Because of his classification, which got below the often misleading resemblances in superficial appearance and habits to the affinities indicated by anatomical architecture; (2) because of the pattern of thoroughness which he set in his anatomical investigations; (3) because of the excellence of his observations on the life and habits of birds.” The late Prof. Alfred Newton wrote of MacGillivray:—“Among ornithologists

of the highest rank there have been few whose opinion is more worthy of attention than MacGillivray, a trained anatomist and a man of thoroughly independent mind."

The record of MacGillivray's life and work, as set out in the volume under notice, should be read by all ornithologists; it is inspiring.

It is interesting that two sons of the great British "bird-man," John and Paul, also became eminent in natural science, and spent portions of their lives in Australia. John MacGillivray was naturalist on three scientific expeditions, including that of the *Fly* to Torres Strait and the Eastern Archipelago (1842-46), and he died at Sydney in 1867. Paul settled in Australia. He was a surgeon, and a student of natural science. A monument to his memory has been erected at Bendigo, where he resided, and his collection of natural specimens is preserved in the National Museum, Melbourne.

### Correspondence.

THE CARTER ALBATROSS.

To the Editors of "*The Emu*."

SIRS,—The editorial statement appearing in the last number of *The Emu* (October, 1910, vol. x., p. 144) is incorrect in stating that the specimen of *Thalassogeron carteri*, described as new by the Hon. Walter Rothschild (*vide Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, xiv., p. 6)—"was found washed ashore dead off North-West Australia." It was caught by a black boy in my employment while it was swimming in the open sea at Point Cloates, and brought to me by him while still alive (*vide Emu*, vol. iii., p. 208). I think the editors, who, as far as I know, have never seen the bird, have gone out of their way to question the validity of this species, seeing that the Hon. Walter Rothschild described it as new (Dr. Ernst Hartert concurring with him), and that the late Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe assured me (after examination of the skin) that it was a good species, when I was in England in 1903. So far, the only Albatross procured that resembles *T. carteri* was procured at Gough Island, in the South Atlantic, by the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition in 1904, and was described by my friend Mr. Wm. Eagle Clarke in *The Ibis*, 1905, p. 266, where he states:—"Dr. Hartert remarks that he finds nothing to show that other Albatrosses have the bill black in the young."

In my paper in *The Emu* mentioned above, the word "thing" has been substituted for "skin" by a printer's error in the fourth line, p. 209.—I am, &c.,

TOM CARTER.

Broome Hill, Western Australia, 27/10/10.

[No persons are more "in love" with Australian birds or