

Mytila (Amytornis) striata owenl. Mathews. Striated Grass-Wren.

Nest.—Is of the domed type and globular in shape, outwardly constructed of dried spinifex (*Triodia*) stems, and fine grasses. The interior very neatly lined with buff-coloured vegetable down, but the cavity containing the eggs is small in comparison with the bulk of the nest. It was difficult to tell the top from the bottom of the nest when it was removed from the growth of spinifex.

Eggs.—Clutch of three, oval in shape, surface of shell fine, smooth, and slightly glossy; ground colour white, with the very faintest tinge of pinkish-buff, finely spotted and speckled all over, but particularly at the larger end, where a well-marked zone is formed, with pale reddish-brown, umber, and dull slate, the latter appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. The markings are so small that it is necessary to use a magnifying-glass in order to determine the correct colours.

Measurements in inches:—(a) .79 x .59, (b) .77 x .57, (c) .80 x .58.

Locality.—Taken for me by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock at Spinifex Plain, Borewell, East Murchison, Western Australia, on 12th September, 1909.

Aphelocephala castaneiventris whitei, Mathews. Chestnut-bellied Whiteface.

Nest.—Composed of grass and twigs, lined with animal fur, and placed in a hollow mulga.

Eggs.—Clutch of three, swollen oval in shape; surface of shell fine, smooth, and glossy; ground colour pale buffy-white, well spotted all over, but particularly at the larger end, where a well-defined zone is formed, with light and dark umber markings, intermingled with those of dull purplish-grey, the latter appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell.

Measurements in inches:—(a) .67 x .5, (b) .67 x .5, (c) .65 x .51.

Locality.—Taken by Capt. S. A. White at the Everard Ranges, Central Australia, on 8th August, 1914.

Descriptions of Nests and Eggs of *Monarcha canescens* and *Neochmia phaeton albiventer*.

BY DR. W. MACGILLIVRAY, VICE-PRESIDENT R.A.O.U., BROKEN HILL.

Monarcha canescens (Salvadori), *Monarcha melanopsis canescens* of Mathews' 1913 "List of the Birds of Australia," is a rare bird at Cape York, but quite common in the scrubs and open forest country at the back of Lloyd's Bay. It nests in the scrubs, where Mr. W. McLennan was fortunate in finding the first nest on the 11th January, 1915. The nest was about 20 feet from the ground in a fig-tree growing in scrub on the Claudie River.

The eggs are three in number, blunt ovals in shape, shell smooth with slight lustre, creamy white in colour, dotted all over with small reddish-brown irregularly-shaped spots, with a few underlying pale purplish ones. The spots are sparingly distributed towards the small end, but form a distinct zone at the larger. The eggs measure in millimetres:—(a) axis 23 x diameter 17, (b) axis 23 x diameter 16, (c) axis 24 x diameter 18.

The nest is a beautiful, compactly built, goblet-shaped structure, placed in an upright fork of a small scrub tree. It is composed of fine strips and flakes of paper bark, bound together by cobwebs. In one nest examined many flocculent masses of cobweb adhered to the exterior; another was only sparingly bound round with cobweb. The lining is of vegetable hair. External diameter at brim, 70 mm.; from brim to bottom, 120 mm.; internal depth, 50 mm.

Neochmia phaeton albiventer (Mathews, *South Australian Ornithologist*, April, 1914).

The eggs of this bird, four in number, were taken by Mr. W. McLennan at the Archer Creek, on the western side of the Cape York Peninsula, on 21st April, 1915. They are pure white, oval in shape, with a slightly glossy shell. Measurements:—(1) 15 mm. x 12 mm., (2) 15 mm. x 12 mm., (3) 14.5 mm. x 11.5 mm., (4) 14 mm. x 11 mm.

The nest is a spherical structure, composed of the stems, blades, and seeding heads of some coarse grass, with a little fur of some animal, the internal lining consisting of a few feathers, some fur, and a portion of the cast skin of a snake. The external diameter is 140 mm.

Observations around Anglesea, Victoria.

BY HERBERT A. PURNELL, R.A.O.U.

IN company with Mr. Frank Howe, C.M.Z.S., of the Bird Observers' Club, early on the morning of 2nd April, 1915, I started for a favourite hunting-ground around Anglesea. During our trip 76 different species of birds were actually observed. This, I think, is a good record for so short a trip, and especially in an "off" season. On previous occasions, and in the nesting season, I have never recorded many more than 60 birds in a week-end outing.

Geelong district, as stated by Mr. C. F. Belcher, in "The Birds of the District of Geelong," has about 244 species, so resident naturalists have one of the best fields for ornithological observations. The Connemara Lakes, ocean beaches, open plains, lightly-timbered country, and Otway forests form the home of many forms of bird life.

Our drive through the open country around Waurn Ponds revealed nothing beyond the usual forms noted on any country