

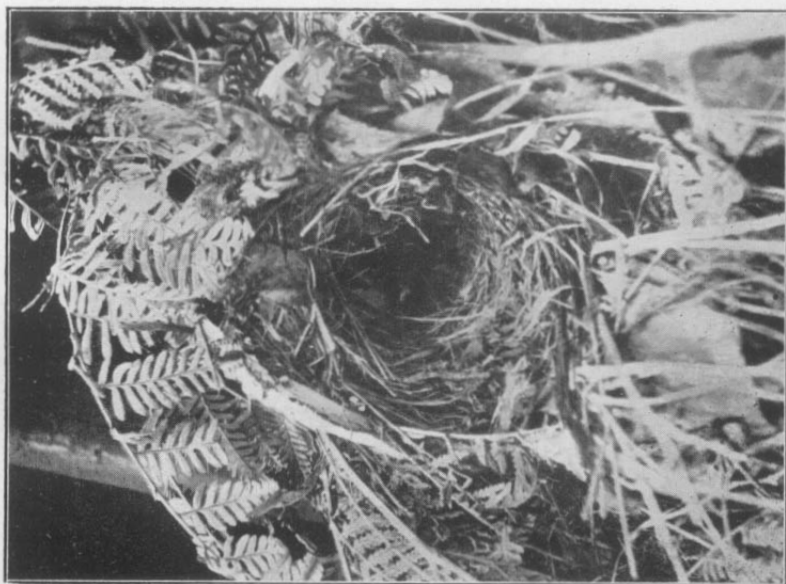
experience with the Pilot-Bird, we were rather mystified as to what it could be. It was not till we reached the camp and consulted Dr. Leach's "Bird Book" that we discovered what our find was. We decided to try next day for some photographs of the adult birds. Daybreak found us at the nest determined to secure pictures at any cost. Having fixed one of the cameras in position, we patiently waited for the parents to visit the nest. After about twenty-five minutes the female appeared, and, without taking any notice of the camera, which was focussed only some 18 inches from the nest, fed the young and departed without giving us a good position. As we received similar treatment on four or five visits, occupying roughly an hour, we grew weary of waiting, and decided to keep the parents around the nest by preventing them from feeding the young. This method proved effective, and we succeeded in securing several exposures without delay. During the day we had unlimited opportunities, the birds becoming so tame as even to allow themselves to be handled. We were also fortunate as regards the light, but, owing probably to our inexperience of photography at that time, the two photographs reproduced were the total result of many exposures.—S. A. LAWRENCE and R. T. LITTLEJOHNS.

Stray Feathers.

Some New Zealand Bird Notes.—I wonder if the following notes are of any interest? The Waiuku district consists mostly of small dairy farms, and most of the original forest has long ago disappeared. It was mostly kauri, puriri, and rimu on the low, rolling hills, and kahikatea or white (butter-box) pine on the rich swamp land north of the Waikato Heads. Starlings are here in thousands, and where they can find an old puriri are well off for nesting-places, as the puriri "pipes" just as eucalypts do. But standing timber is scarce, and these birds have taken to nesting within a foot or so of the ground. You see, nearly all corner-posts and gate-posts are of puriri in the round. These have, as usual, "piped," decaying down the middle and leaving sufficient space for a Starling to descend, and sometimes for a human arm to follow and even reach the nest. Perhaps the same thing happens in Australia, but I think it would be novel in England—I mean, of course, for the nest to be so near, if not sometimes on, *terra firma*. Besides Starlings we have several other acclimatized birds. Blackbirds and Thrushes are common; there are probably three nests of each in my grounds of a couple of acres. Skylarks also are very numerous, so you can see we get plenty of music. Goldfinches, Chaffinches, and Greenfinches are in about that order of frequency. (I leave a corner of the orchard waste *pour les encourager*.) The Yellow Hammer is also a common bird—and the Sparrow!



Pilot-Bird.



Nest of Pilot-Bird.



Nest and Eggs of Dusky Robin (*Amaurodrias vittata*), with egg of Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*), Launceston.

PHOTO. BY H. C. THOMPSON, R.A.O.U.



Nest of Australian Coot (*Fulica australis*).

PHOTO. BY W. J. SANDOW, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MILNE'S BRIDGE,

As for native birds, the commonest is, I think, the Ground-Lark (*Anthus novæ-zealandiæ*). The Harrier (*Circus gouldi*), the Kingfisher (*Halcyon vagans*), the Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*), and the Grey Warbler (*Pseudogerygone igala*), are about equally numerous. The Weka (*Ocydromus earli*) is not uncommon, being more often heard than seen, and aquatic birds are plentiful on the swamps along the Waikato River. The only rare bird I have seen there is a small Rail, but which one I am not sure, as I only glimpsed it twice while driving along the road. I have heard the Tui once (further north I have seen scores), and seen a Kaka once; these also I have seen on several occasions north of Auckland. Even when to the above list I add the beautiful Californian Quail, which are plentiful, and the equally beautiful but rare Pheasant, the ubiquitous White-eye (*Zosterops cærulescens*)—like myself, an Australian migrant come to stay—the Banded Dotterel (seen at Tokomaru Bay, on the East Coast), the Indian Myna (seen also at the same place), and the dear old Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), found on the mainland opposite Kawan Island, to which they were introduced by Sir George Grey. The Shining Cuckoo should be added to the list, also the "More-pork" Owl. Even with all that I can scrape together, you will see what a short bird list I have, and understand how I miss my native land, with its wealth of bird-life.—T. J. ICK-HEWINS, M.B., B.S.

Ornithological Notes.

BY EDWIN ASHBY, M.B.O.U., R.A.O.U., "WITTUNGA," BLACKWOOD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

IN looking through my diary I have culled the following notes, which may be of interest.

Pomatostomus superciliosus, V. and H. (White-browed Babbler).—On the 14th March, 1916, observed a pair of these birds feeding their young in nest situated in a peppermint (*Eucalyptus odoratus*), about 15 feet from the ground. I could not help spending some time watching these birds; I think they are in some respects the most interesting of all the native birds in this locality. They spread their tails when they make their short flights, the white tips to the tail feathers giving a pretty fan-like appearance. The short, quick beats of their wings make a fluttering sound, very noticeable even when the birds are not visible. The habit of alighting on the ground at some distance from the tree that they wish to ascend, and completing the final few feet by taking a series of huge hops is almost grotesque, and this is added to as each of the flock follows its leader, the whole party ascending the branches of the tree in a spiral fashion. The notes are most varied; the most common is a combination between a warble and a scold, followed by a loud scolding noise without the warble, or some-