

whole rookery proclaimed a sanctuary. In the reeds close to Fairley I saw numbers of the Black-tailed Native-Hen, Bald-Coots, and Australian Coots. Three nests of the Black-backed Wren each contained three eggs, and a nest of the Grass-Bird also contained three eggs. The Kestrel, Fairy Martin, Laughing Jackass, and Red-backed Parrots were freely nesting in the hollow trees around the lake. Mr. Walsh is indeed fortunate, as a bird-lover, in having his home in such splendid surroundings.

Leaving Fairley next morning, I visited a large colony of Fairy Martins under a large road-bridge, and also found two nests of the White-winged Wren with young ones in them. I regretted that my stay was so short, and had to cycle over some very bad bits of road on my way to catch the train for Melbourne.

Descriptions of two New Nests and Eggs.

BY HENRY L. WHITE, M.B.O.U., BELLTREES, N.S.W.

Malurus (Nesomalurus) leucopterus edouardi. Black-and-White Wren.

When visiting Barrow Island, under a special permit from the Western Australian Government (the island being a protected area), Mr. Whitlock was asked to pay some attention to this bird, and to procure its eggs if possible. The task was a comparatively easy one, several clutches being secured.

Nest.—A typical nest was described in *The Emu*, vol. xvii., p. 179, but a curious variation was obtained during the later trip. The bulk of the material was similar, but the outside decoration consisted of pieces of cast snake-skin freely worked into the covering. Another nest was warmly lined with wallaby fur.

Eggs.—Type clutch of three eggs; rounded ovals in form, surface of shell very fine and slightly glossy; ground colour white, marked all over, but particularly at the larger ends, with small markings and specks of light umber and pale reddish-brown.

Dimensions in parts of inch :—(a) .58 x .45, (b) .57 x .45, (c) .57 x .45.

Taken by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock at Barrow Island, Dampier Group, Western Australia, on 2nd August, 1918. Nest well concealed in tussock of sea-grass.

Co-type.—Clutch of three eggs, rather oval in form, especially (c); surface of shell very fine and slightly glossy; ground colour white, while in (c) there is the very slightest tinge of pink; marked all over (and particularly at the larger end in c) with minute spots and specks of light umber and reddish-brown.

Dimensions in inches :—(a) .58 x .43, (b) .59 x .42, (c) .62 x .42.

Taken by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock at Barrow Island, Dampier Group, Western Australia, on 17th July, 1918.

Nest in large tussock of sea-grass near springtide line. Very well concealed. Female flushed.

Another clutch, taken on 12th August, 1918, is pure white,

resembling very much the eggs of the White-backed Swallow (*Cheramæca leucosternum*). In another, taken on 9th August, 1918, one egg is quite a different shape from the others of the same clutch, and marked all over with very minute specks of pale reddish-brown, thus giving the clutch an odd appearance. In fact, from the series of eggs it is hard to describe what are typical markings.

Eremiornis carteri. Desert-Bird.

Search for the eggs of this bird has occupied a longer time, probably, than that for any other Australian species. Three unsuccessful seasons were spent by Mr. Whitlock in attempts to locate the nest and eggs, and I determined upon one more hunt before giving in.

As the birds appeared to be more numerous on Barrow Island (Dampier Group, W.A.) than on the mainland, I arranged for Mr. Whitlock to spend some weeks at the spot, during July and August. After a most anxious time (particulars of which shall appear in a later issue of *The Emu*), he succeeded in securing a pair of these long-sought-for eggs on the 20th August. Judging from Mr. Whitlock's experience, eggs of *E. carteri* will always be extremely rare, but he has made the way for other collectors much easier, as his notes will show.

Nest.—The open, cup-shaped nest, substantially built of finely-shredded grass or herbage, and lined with fine roots, was placed in a bunch of spinifex (*Triodia*). Measurements—across, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep over all; egg cavity, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Eggs.—Type clutch of two eggs; oval in shape, (a) slightly larger than (b); surface of shell very fine and slightly glossy; ground colour pinkish-white, closely covered all over, and particularly at the larger ends, with minute markings of pale lilac and purplish brown, and from light to dark reddish-brown. In (a) the zone or ring of markings on the larger end is more pronounced than in (b).

Dimensions in inches:—(a) .70 x .48, (b) .67 x .48.

The eggs resemble miniature specimens of those of the Bristle-Bird (*Sphenura brachyptera*).

Taken by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock on Barrow Island, Dampier Group, Western Australia, on 20th August, 1918.

My friend, Mr. Bettington, of "Terragong," New South Wales, is sharing the expense and results of Mr. Whitlock's present expedition.

About Members.

MESSRS. C. H. A. Lienau, R.A.O.U., Unley Park, South Australia, and T. J. Ick-Hewins, M.B., B.S., Taranaki, New Zealand, have been elected members of the Avicultural Society.