

The Emu

Official Organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union

"Birds of a Feather."

VOL. XXIII.]

1ST APRIL, 1924.

[PART I.]

Description of Some New Nests and Eggs

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Amytornis purnelli. Dark Grass-wren.—*Nest* (*Type*), a comparatively large and half-domed structure, very loosely composed of fine, dried, soft grasses, lined with partly decayed and very soft weather-worn grasses. Height over all $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, width $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches, opening $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across; depth from front to back (inside) 2 inches. Built near the ground in a clump of *Triodia* or Porcupine-grass. *Eggs* (*Types*), clutch 2; swollen ovals in shape; surface of shell fine, and rather glossy. Ground colour pale pinkish-white, well marked all over with minute specks and blotches of light to dark reddish-brown, the markings becoming much larger and crowded at the larger end, and forming an irregular cap. The pair measure:—A, .83 x .62, B, .83 x .62 inches. (*Co-types*), clutch 2; rounded ovals in shape; surface of shell fine and slightly glossy. Ground colour white, possessing a very faint pinkish tinge, spotted and blotched with light to dark reddish-brown, pale amber and lilac; becoming confluent at the larger end, and forming a well defined cap. The pair measure:—A .77 x .58, B .77 x .58 inches. Of those received, no two clutches are alike. Taken by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock at the entrance to the Finke Gorge, near Hermannsburg, Central Australia, on (*types*) 15th September, 1923, and (*Co-types*) 13th September, 1923.

Although the following nests and eggs have already been described, it may be of interest to mention those collected by Mr. F. Whitlock, near Hermannsburg, Central Australia, during August and September, 1923.

Amytornis modesta. Thick-billed Grass-wren. Nest large, very loosely constructed, and half-domed, with a large opening on the side, composed of dead well bleached grasses, strips of soft bark, etc.; lined with very soft, decayed grasses. Height over all $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, with $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, opening $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across, depth from front to back (inside) 2 inches. Nest placed nearly on the ground, and sheltered by Cane-grass (*Spinifex paradoxus*). Eggs. Clutch 2: long ovals in shape; surface of shell rather fine and slightly glossy. Ground colour of a pale reddish-white, well spotted and blotched all over, and particularly at the larger end, where is a well defined cap of light to dark reddish-brown. The pair measures—A .90 x .58, B .87 x .58 inches. Another clutch contains 3 eggs which measure:—A .83 x .61, B .80 x .62, C .83 x .60; and one contains four eggs which measure:—A .83 x .61, B .83 x .61, C .83 x .58, D .83 x .58. Two eggs (A and B) of this clutch are heavily spotted and blotched with light to dark reddish-brown and purplish-grey, while specimens C and D are marked all over with very minute specks of reddish-brown. Apparently this is a "combination clutch." One pair was fresh, and the other stale. Probably an "*Amytornis* marriage with a deceased wife's sister." Collected on 3rd September, 1923. Nest a fully domed structure, was placed in the middle of a dense prickly bush. For previous description of nest and eggs, *vide* North's "*Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania*," vol. I., p. 250, and Mathews' "*Birds of Australia*," vol. X., p. 184. When a nest of this species is placed upon its back, it certainly resembles an open cup-shaped structure—instead of a perpendicular half-domed one, such as it appears when in its natural position. Through this an error has accidentally crept into page 175 of vol. X. of Mathews' "*Birds of Australia*," where my notes are quoted as describing the nest of *Amytornis textilis* as being open and cup-shaped.

Stipiturus ruficeps. Rufous-crowned Emu-wren.—Nest a small, neat, domed structure, composed of very fine dead, soft, weather-worn grasses; lined with soft wool-like vegetable substance; placed in a *Triodia* clump. Height over all four inches by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from front to back. Inside measurement from front to back, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Eggs, clutch 2: very rounded ovals in shape; surface of shell fine and smooth, but almost entirely devoid of gloss. Ground colour white, spotted and speckled with pale to darker rusty and reddish-brown, with an irregular zone at the larger end. The pair measures:—A .57 x .44, B .58 x .45 inches; smaller and paler than those collected at North-West Cape, Western Australia, on 13th October, 1916. Collected on 18th September, 1923. For previous description of nest and eggs, *vide* "Emu," vol. XVII., p. 39, and Mathews' "*Birds of Australia*," vol. X., p. 147.