

with the centre almost pure yellow, abdomen buff-yellow. In both specimens the lores are pale yellow. In one the eye-brow is clearly marked in pale yellow; in the other, probably a young bird, it is represented by a slight yellow wash only. Both females are only partially through moulting, the tail feathers being almost entirely young quills.

Measurements in inches:—Male.—Wing, 3; tail, 1.65; culmen, .55; tarsus, .80. Females.—(1) Total length, 5; wing, 3.05; tail, 1.68; culmen, .47; tarsus, .83. (2) Total length, 4.72; wing, 2.9; tail, 1.62; culmen, .47; tarsus, .9; middle toe, .65; hind toe (including claw), .55.

Habitat.—Leigh's Creek, S.A.

Remarks.—I am indebted to Mr. J. R. B. Love for the handsome little birds above described, received in the flesh after injecting formalin, and it is with pleasure I name the species after him, while in the vernacular it may be known as the Desert Bush-Chat. The male was obtained on the 11th of November last, and the two females a month later. There was a flock of about a score. I have provisionally referred this species to the genus *Ephthianura*, but it is of very robust form, and may, after further investigation, exhibit generic differences. On comparison with Gould's figure and description of *Ephthianura crocea*, Castelnau and Ramsay, the species herein described is distinctly larger, and, while exhibiting some similarities, is very dissimilar in general colouration, has no yellow rump, and no crescent mark on breast. Through the kindness of Mr. R. Etheridge, the skin of the male has been compared with the *Ephthianura* in the national collection in the Australian Museum, and Mr. A. J. North supports my opinion that the new bird is possibly allied to the *Ephthianura*.

Description of the Nest and Egg of White-winged Petrel (*Æstrelata leucoptera*, Gould).

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(Published as "Bulletin No. 1" of the R.A.O.U., 15/12/10.)

Nest.—A depression in the ground, or a crevice amongst loose stones, lined with a small quantity of broken pieces of dead fronds of the cabbage palm.

Egg.—One, soft chalky-white, rounded oval; dimensions, 1.96 x 1.48 inches.

Remarks.—This species breeds in considerable numbers on Cabbage Tree Island, off the entrance to Port Stephens, New South Wales. This is the type locality of the species, and I believe that it has not been found elsewhere, except as an occasional straggler on the wing. The birds were found in small numbers on

the 16th October, 1910; singly, for the most part concealed under the fallen fronds of the cabbage palm. On the 2nd November there were more birds, nearly all in pairs, and many were in crevices amongst the rocks; they were evidently mating. On 4th December large numbers of birds were found sitting, each on one egg, and all nests were more or less in the open—*e.g.*, there was no semblance of a burrow, such as is constructed by its nearest ally, *Æ. cooki*, Gray. In some instances several nests were found in close proximity under large masses of dead fronds, and deep in natural crevices amongst the stones, but there was no evidence of any scratching out of soil to form the nesting-place.

The eggs vary greatly in dimensions and shape; the major axis varies from 1.76 to 2.12, and the minor axis from 1.36 to 1.54, the average dimensions of 31 measured specimens being 1.96 x 1.46 inches.

Further Remarks on the Finding of the Nest and Egg of *Æstrelata leucoptera*.

BY A. F. BASSET HULL, R.A.O.U., SYDNEY.

IN his "Handbook to the Birds of Australia," p. 454, John Gould, in dealing with his *Æstrelata leucoptera*, or White-winged Petrel, expressed the opinion that his bird is different from the *Æ. (Procellaria) cooki* of G. R. Gray. His specimen was obtained while breeding on Cabbage Tree Island, at the mouth of Port Stephens, and he was informed that the bird bred there in abundance. He added:—"The Australian seas abound with Petrels, the investigation of the various species of which, their habits and economy, as well as their places of abode, will serve to occupy the attention of ornithologists for years to come."

On the 30th December, 1906, my friend Mr. R. N. Cadden, who was on the staff of the Danysz Rabbit Inoculation Station at Broughton Island, writing to me with reference to Petrels' eggs, said:—"It is too late to procure good Mutton-Birds' or Storm-Petrels' eggs now."

At the time I was not aware that any Petrel other than the Mutton-Bird (*Puffinus sphenurus*) was known to breed so far north, but I stored up the remark for future investigation. My discovery of *Pelagodroma marina* breeding on an islet off Wollongong in 1909 revived my interest in the matter, and I decided to make an expedition to the islands in the vicinity of Port Stephens this season, in order to determine, first, what species of Storm-Petrel bred on Broughton Island, and, second, whether Gould's White-winged Petrel still frequented the type locality of the species.

Accompanied by Mr. C. Hedley, F.L.S., Assistant Curator of the Australian Museum, Dr. Hamlyn Harris, F.L.S., Director of