

The following incident happened on 14th October, on which date we had been two days without water; in consequence thereof we sent out scouts to a mile on each side of the camel train in the hope of finding some soakage or wet clay-pan. During one of my "watches," and when about 12 miles east of Mungeranie, I flushed a Desert Chat. The little bird did the "broken wing" trick very well indeed, and fluttered away, while I remained stationary. As soon as the bird was sufficiently distant I shot it with the .410, feeling that if I could find the nest it would be well to place the identity of the species (*Ashbyia lovensis*, Ashby) beyond dispute.

I found the nest within a yard and a half of my feet, concealed in a clump of salt-bush; it contained two eggs, and a third was lying a few inches away, having evidently been ejected by the bird in its hurried departure. This was the more remarkable as the nest was particularly deep. It was built in a hole in the small gibber, and when removed the hollow looked as if it had been artificially excavated, though it is not conceivable that the bird had removed the stones and sand. The hole would contain an average teacup, and the nest was built with a rim which extended beyond the hole for some distance all round. The groundwork of the nest consists of small twigs overlaid with fine roots interspersed with flower-heads to form a lining, and the fine roots were used to form the rim above mentioned.

The eggs are pale yellow in colour, with chestnut-brown blotches disposed around the larger end. In two of the specimens minute brown dots occur on other portions also. Before blowing the ground colour was pale pink, as with most small white or nearly white eggs. The eggs are larger and more pointed than in any species of *Ephthianura*, with which genus the bird was first associated, and measure 10.93 x 10.46, 10.97 x 10.47, and 10.94 x 10.45 mm. respectively.

The accompanying photograph was taken of the nest and eggs *in situ*, but, owing to the searching fine sand having interfered with the working of the shutter, the result is not so sharp as I could have wished.

It will be realized that under the circumstances above mentioned we could not afford much time on the ground for making observations, but I signalled to Capt. White, who was about a quarter of a mile distant, so that he, as ornithologist to the expedition, might have the opportunity of seeing the nest and eggs (previously unknown) in an undisturbed state.

Record of a New Tree-creeper for South Australia.

By S. A. WHITE, M.B.O.U.

Climacteris waitel, sp. nov. Cooper's Creek Tree-creeper.

Head and forehead dark grey, feathers of the latter showing narrow dark lines down the centres; back of the neck grey; back

and rump ruddy brown; wing—all primaries excepting the first, and all secondaries, blackish-brown at the base, crossed by a band of buff, in secondaries followed by a deep band of blackish-brown; tips of primaries and secondaries brown; throat whitish, and some of the feathers marked with black; chest grey; breast and abdomen pale rufous, with a dull white stripe down the centre of each feather, lined on each side by a narrow brown line; flanks rufous; tail greyish-brown, all the feathers excepting the first two crossed by a deep black band; under tail coverts rufous, shaft of each feather and tip white, a series of small double spots of a dark brown colour situated close to the centre shaft of the feathers and at even distances along it. The coloration of the sexes is alike, with the exception of the female showing a faint rufous marking on the feathers of the lower throat. Iris brown; feet slaty-grey; bill brown.

Measurements, taken in the flesh, in inches:—Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$; total stretch of wings, tip to tip, $11\frac{1}{4}$; tarsus, $\frac{7}{8}$; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$.

Type.—A male collected at Innamincka on 2nd October, 1916, by S. A. White, and now in the South Australian Museum.

Range.—As far as yet known, the bird is confined to Cooper's Creek district, from above Innamincka in the east to Cuttapiirie Corner in the west.

The markings on the lower side of *Climacteris waitei* partake somewhat of those of *C. scandens*, while the coloration of the back approaches that of *C. superciliosa*, but differs noticeably from both. Although of about the same size as *C. superciliosa*, this new bird has a shorter and stouter bill, its feet and legs much more powerful, and the claws longer and stronger.

Habits much like those of other members of the genus. The call resembles that of *C. scandens*, but is not so loud. I secured the first specimen in the vicinity of "Burke's Tree," a few miles above Innamincka, on the south side of Cooper's Creek.

Fully fledged young ones were accompanying the parent birds as they flew from tree to tree, their advanced plumage suggesting that these birds had nested in June or July.

Description of the Winiam Tit-Warbler, *Acanthiza winiamida*, sp. nov.

By F. ERASMUS WILSON, R.A.O.U., MELBOURNE.

THE whole of the upper surface, with the exception of the lower forehead and rump, uniformly grey, slightly tinged with olive-green. Feathers of the lower forehead black, widely barred with white near the extremity; rump creamy-white. Primaries and secondaries ashy-brown, the primaries being faintly margined with white in their external webs. Tail feathers black, partially tipped with white. Feathers of ear coverts and throat whitish, faintly