

Coucal's eggs. Also present were 51 pupal cases of fly larvae,* some of which had already hatched. Fortunately

*When Mr. Blacket first examined the young Coucals, then a few days old, he did not notice any fly larvae on their bodies, nor were any seen eight days later (Iredale, Blacket and Hindwood). It appears that the larvae of *Passeromyia longicornis* Macq. are both blood-sucking, with nestling birds as their hosts, and carrion feeders, eating the excreta of birds. The excreta of the young Coucals was semi-fluid, dark brown and of an offensive odour. It was of such a nature that it could hardly have been removed from the nest by the parent birds. In the nest examined very little excreta was present, though the leaves were moist and stained. It seems that the larvae of this fly taken from the Coucal's nest were living on the excreta and not the blood of the nestlings. For notes on the habits of *Passeromyia longicornis* refer P. A. Gilbert, *Emu*, vol. xix, 1919, p. 48, and vol. xxxiii, 1939, p. 512; also K. A. Hindwood, *Emu*, vol. xxx, 1930, p. 131.

a number (35) were bred out, the first two emerging on November 10, the morning after they were collected, thus establishing the identity of the fly, which proved to be *Passeromyia longicornis*. This fly has not previously been recorded from the nest of the Coucal.

REFERENCES:

1. Berney, F. L., "North Queensland Notes on Some Migratory Birds," *Emu*, vol. ii, 1903, pt. 4, April 1, pp. 210-3.
2. Berney, F. L., *ibid.* vol. iv, 1904, pt. 1, July 1, pp. 43-7.
3. Jackson, S. W., *Catalogue and Data of the Jacksonian Oological Collection*, 1907, p. 29.
4. Rogers, J. P., in Mathews, Gregory M., *The Birds of Australia*, vol. vii, 1919, pt. 5, July 10, p. 387.

A Note on *Pachyptila vittata* (Forster).—As few notes on this subspecies have been published, the following is of interest.

In *Reise der Novara, Zoologischer Theil*, Bd. 1, Vogel, 1869, p. 147, August von Pelzeln published his notes on this bird, and we note he used the species name as of Forster.

On the island of St. Paul's in the Indian Ocean, he observed the subspecies *Pachyptila vittata macgillivrayi*, which was breeding. The eyes were black; bill light grey-blue, culmen dark brown; feet and webs grey-blue. Total length 11" 9": Expanse of wing 2' 7". The birds were numerous and their nesting burrows plentiful and from two to six feet long.

They fly in the evening and dart like snipe and so were difficult to shoot over their nesting places. A male and two females were collected and a young bird was captured in the nesting hole in November. An egg was also procured which was yellowish-white and measured 1" 9" long by 1" 5" wide.

Apparently they lay their egg in September-October. At least one specimen of this subspecies is in the Museum at Grenoble, probably one of the above.—GREGORY MATHEWS, Sydney, N.S.W., 8/2/42.