

of the nest, which contained two eggs of the Bristle-Bird with one egg of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo. The three eggs were fresh, and I am inclined to think that the Cuckoo's egg was laid after the first egg of the Bristle-Bird, for in most cases the Cuckoo removes one egg of the foster-parent.

The birds around Point Roadknight are seldom disturbed, and I am glad to observe that the old "Cartwheel-Bird," as it is often known as on account of its peculiar call, is beginning to get fairly plentiful again, for during the months of October and November I observed many nests containing eggs and young.

Camera Craft Notes.

Pelicans on Brisbane River.—The accompanying photograph by E. F. D'Arcy shows a number of Pelicans on a gravel bank on the Brisbane River, about 20 miles above the city. This flock of Pelicans is quite accustomed to come down to the Hamilton Reach, which is almost in the city, and do a bit of hunting. These Pelicans also interested our party very greatly because about a dozen of the big birds were observed perched or roosting on the more powerful branches of a great gum-tree fully 80 feet above the water. This is the first time I have noticed these birds utilizing a tree for a camping-ground.—R. H. LA B. CUMMINS. Brisbane (Q.), 15/10/19.

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Pelicans.—The accompanying photograph by Mr. R. G. Johnston is of birds bred on Lake Cowal, Wyalong, N.S.W., and was taken in March, 1918, when about half-grown. They have got their full plumage and size in the spring of 1919. About 50 Pelicans were breeding in the lake last year. The young were being fed chiefly on common carp. The lake is now nearly dry, and unless rain falls will be gone in January. It is interesting to find Pelicans breeding about water not strictly permanent. The drought, Crows, Hawks, and foxes are preventing the increase of bird-life in the district very considerably, and it is very noticeable that insect pests are more numerous and a great nuisance. A terrific moth plague is just ending, and pumpkin bugs are all over the fields.—A. S. LE SOUËF. Taronga Park, Sydney, 4/11/19.

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The Ground-Thrush.—In my early bird-observing days I made acquaintance with the Australian Ground-Thrush (*Oreocincla lunulata*), and found many of its beautiful nests in the tea-tree scrub along Port Phillip Bay, from Sandringham to Mordialloc and beyond. In the nineties there were still great areas of uncultivated land, and, except on public holidays, one could ramble day-long without meeting half a dozen persons. Birds

reared their broods in peace till the builders came to cover the moorland with villas and cottages. In recent years species that were formerly abundant in the tea-tree have become scarce, notably the Ground-Thrush, which favours quietness and solitude. At Black Rock, before the era of progress dawned there, whenever I rambled through the tea-tree I was sure to see many Thrushes, and in July or August rarely searched in vain for their nests. One of the first subjects of a Victorian pioneer in nature-photography (Mr. C. P. Kinane) was the nest and eggs of *O. lunulata*, and a lantern slide of it was screened at the Gould League demonstration in Melbourne on 24th October, 1919. I was present when the photograph was taken, and incidents connected with it are still fresh in memory. Most of my own early attempts at camera-craft were made at Black Rock. After the usual failures of the novice, I obtained photographs of the bird on its nest, but years passed before I gained the picture most desired: a Ground-Thrush in its characteristic attitude, standing alert among twigs and dead leaves, in the chequered shade of a tea-tree grove. And success was achieved only with the help of two companions. Stepping softly over the mould, we approached the bird each from a different quarter. My friends stopped when within about 15 feet of the Thrush, and tried to attract its attention while I stole nearer. For fully three minutes my subject remained still (save for a sharp twist of the head when the camera shutter was set), and I was able to focus nicely and give a time exposure. With three strange forms about it the bird was unable to decide quickly upon a way of escape from what it may have regarded as a position of peril. Had I been alone, doubtless it would have run to cover while the camera was being placed in position. If the Ground-Thrush were a lover of sunshine instead of shadows, it would not be a difficult subject for the hand camera, for I have frequently approached to within a few feet of one before it became alarmed; and at close range I have watched them searching for food in the mould and scratching up the golden-green moss which they use so freely in nest-building. All their actions are quiet. They are "silent" birds, but not voiceless, though only those who know their ways are likely to have heard their "song at twilight." It is finely described by Mr. A. J. Campbell, who writes with deep enthusiasm of this "lovable bird."* In the shadowy tea-tree groves, where greys and browns are dominant colours, the plumage of the Ground-Thrush harmonizes well with its environment. One may be close at hand and escape notice, unless it is betrayed by the large, bright eye, so conspicuous in my photograph. These birds live "close to the ground," and Nature has patterned and coloured their plumage so that it offers no strong contrast to twigs and leaf-mould and the misty greyness of tea-tree boles.—CHAS. BARRETT. C.M.Z.S., Melbourne.

* "Nests and Eggs," p. 186.



The Ground-Thrush (*Oreocincla lunulata*).

PHOTO. BY CHARLES BARRETT, C.M.Z.S.