

Description of two New Nests and Eggs.

BY SID. WM. JACKSON, A.O.U., NEW SOUTH WALES.

ACANTHIZA TENUIROSTRIS, Zietz.

Nest.—An oblong structure, dome shaped, and resembling that of the *Maluri*, except that it is more loosely made and not nearly so compact. Length, 5 inches; width, nearly 3 inches; the opening is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, and is situated nearly at the top of the nest, the hood only covering two-thirds of the opening and body of the nest beneath. It is loosely constructed of thin strips of bark of a stringy nature, and portions of a soft plant, which are woven together and fastened with cobwebs. Warmly lined inside, especially at the bottom, with a white substance resembling short pieces of wool, but which is probably the down collected from flowering plants.

Nest was found suspended from the topmost twigs of a low samphire bush, near Lake Way,* Western Australia, on 26th August, 1909.

Eggs.—Three in number; ground colour white, with a very faint tinge of pink in them. Shell fine, but with very little gloss. Specimens *a* and *b* are well marked all over, but particularly at the larger ends, with very small spots of dull reddish-brown. Specimen *c* is almost devoid of markings, with the exception of very minute specks of dull reddish-brown, which are scattered all over the shell, and forming a very indistinct cap at the larger end. The eggs are swollen ovals in shape, and measure as follows:—(*a*) 0.57×0.43 , (*b*) 0.57×0.43 , (*c*) 0.57×0.44 inch.

AMYTORNIS GIGANTURA, Milligan.

Nest.—An open, cup-shaped structure, which in miniature somewhat resembles that of *Collyriocincla harmonica*. Width of nest over all, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; egg cavity, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth. Constructed of strips of bark and long portions of a soft white flowering plant. Lined with short, soft pieces of flat grass and plant-stems, also a quantity of soft white vegetable matter. The nest was placed about 20 inches from the ground in a dense salt-bush, which measured about 6 feet in circumference and about 3 feet in height. Taken at Lake Way, Western Australia, on 23rd August, 1909.

Eggs.—Three in number, ground colour a warm white or dull pink, beautifully marked all over with spots and blotches of very rich reddish-brown, which become confluent at the larger ends, where they form an irregular zone or cap. Here and there on each egg will be found a few markings of light slate, appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell.

* Lake Way is about 400 miles inland in an easterly direction from Geraldton which is the nearest point on the coast.

They are stout ovals in shape, the surface of the shell being very fine and glossy. The three eggs are very uniformly marked, and measure as follows :—(a) 0.85 x 0.67, (b) 0.89 x 0.67, (c) 0.85 x 0.66 inch.

Observation.—Writing to Mr. H. L. White on the new and interesting find, Mr. F. L. Whitlock states :—"To-day (23rd August, 1909) I planned to have a thorough search in the favourite place for the nest of this species. I picked up a stick and systematically beat the bushes and every tuft of spinifex. I had nearly gone through the most likely tract of ground when I spied what looked like the rim of a nest in a thick salt-bush. I parted the branches, and there was a fine open cup-shaped nest, with three handsome eggs, of a character totally new to me; they resembled large eggs of *Artamus venustus* or giant eggs of *Xerophila*, but the markings are more vinaceous. This was a puzzle. There was not a bird about whose eggs I thought I did not know. As for *Amytornis*, all the time I have been looking for a semi-domed structure or something akin to it; this nest was massive and cup-shaped. The only thing to do was to watch. I walked away, and was about to sit down, when I heard the alarm note of *Amytornis*, promptly replied to by the other partner; I knew what I had then found. However, the sitting bird would not go on, so I decided to finish my work in another locality, and then return, and, if necessary, spend the day in watching. I came back in about two hours' time, and, the ground being sandy, I came very stealthily up to the bush and peeped into the nest; there sat an *Amytornis*. Of course, the bird was off in an instant, but I saw sufficient to prove it to be the male bird of Milligan's *Amytornis gigantura*."

Description of a New *Acanthiza*.

BY EDWIN ASHBY, BLACKWOOD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ACANTHIZA (GEOBASILEUS) FLAVIVENTRIS, sp. nov. (Plain-fronted Tit).

Adult.—General colour above buff-brown; lesser, median, and greater wing coverts drab-brown, centres broadly margined with buff; primaries drab, narrowly margined with yellow, becoming a mere line towards extremities, but tipped with buff; secondaries, outer broadly margined with yellow, inner with buff. Tail blackish-brown, inner web shading to drab at base; inner web narrowly edged with whitish-buff, the outer web edged with yellow, which broadens at the base. Two central feathers pale brown at tip, others with a large white spot near extremity on inner web, shading to buff at tip; upper tail coverts yellow, slightly shading to buff; lower rump buff. Lores and eyelids buffish-white. Head.—The whole upper portion of head, neck,