

## Note on Hawks.

GREY v. WHITE GOSHAWKS.—Mr. H. L. White has received the following interesting communication from Mr. H. G. Barnard, from Cape York:—“What I am about to state is perfectly authentic, and I have witnesses to prove it. This is in regard to the Hawks. In my first letter from here I stated that I hoped to prove that the three Hawks—namely, *Astur cinereus*, *A. novæ-hollandiæ*, and *A. leucosomus*—were the same bird. At the first four nests taken the birds of two of the nests were both grey, as in *A. cinereus*; at the other two the birds were *pure white*; then Mr. Bert Jardine informed me of a nest where one bird was pure white and the other grey. As he was leaving for New Guinea, he offered to show me the nest, which was 8 miles from here, towards Somerset. I went with him, and we flushed a grey bird from the nest. As it was too late for further investigations that night, I proceeded with him to Somerset, returning the following day. Next morning, getting a daybreak start (I had a tramp of 16 miles, besides shooting the birds and having a large tree to climb), I reached my destination about 9 o'clock, and flushed a *pure white* bird from the nest. This bird, which was very shy, proved to be the male. After waiting about two hours, the bird returned to the edge of the nest, where I shot it. As it lay on the nest, I was afraid the dead bird would frighten its mate on its return, so I started to climb to the nest. To the first fork was about 50 feet. I was about half-way up when the female, a *grey bird*, flew into the nest and sat beside the dead one. Quickly I made my way down the tree for my gun; and as the bird hopped off the nest on to a limb I secured it, for complete identification. I then finished the climb, and got the other bird and a set of three eggs. One of the eggs was pierced in the end by a shot; but this will only make the set more interesting, as it in no wise spoilt the egg. On my way home I found another nest, from which the female flew, and she was pure white. I waited about half an hour before climbing, as I wanted to see the male, and when he came he was grey—so in one day I got a nest with a white male and grey female and *vice versa*. I obtained another female from a nest at which both birds were grey, and it is identical with the grey bird shot with the white male. The grey birds are undoubtedly the ones classed as *A. cinereus*, while the white are exactly like *A. novæ-hollandiæ*. The birds are larger than *A. approximans*, and the eggs considerably larger. As I have the skins—I regretted having to shoot these fine birds—to prove the relationship, but it may be some time before they come into your possession, I ask you, in justice to Mr. Jardine, who first brought the matter under my notice, and to Bert, who found and showed me the nest from which I secured the birds, to kindly place the foregoing facts before some ornithological society.”