

PLATYCERCUS AMATHUSIA (Blue-cheeked Parrakeet).—Amongst the collection of Cape York skins made by Mr. Barnard, and kindly loaned by Mr. White, is a series of this beautiful yellow-headed Parrot. As Gould states, it is nearly allied to the paler-headed *P. pallidiceps*, but differs in "the greener tone of the colouring of the body and in the rich blue cheeks." However, the blue upon the cheeks is variable in the specimens under notice, there being more or less white on the upper part of the cheek. This variableness is apparently due to age, because in two specimens (♂ and ♀), evidently immature, the cheeks are almost wholly blue, while there are patches of red feathers upon the head. Regarding the fine black-headed *P. browni* (*venustus*), recently collected by Mr. G. F. Hill, and mentioned in his notes in the last issue of *The Emu*, p. 270, Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has created for it a new sub-species—*P. venustus hilli**—partly because the white feathers of the cheeks are "reduced to a narrow line, the blue spreading nearly all the way up to the black below the eyes." In some specimens (Hill's) I have examined the extent of the white patch is variable, even on the same bird, one skin showing a larger patch of white on one cheek than on the other; also, like *P. amathusia*, *P. browni* has red feathers occasionally on the head. I fear Mr. Mathews' new sub-species is not admissible.

Descriptions of New Eggs.

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CRATICUS MENTALIS (Black-backed Butcher-Bird).—Clutch, two eggs, much incubated, taken at Lockerbie, Cape York, North Queensland, by H. G. Barnard, 1/12/10. Nest composed of sticks and lined with strong grass-roots, placed in the fork of a "bloodwood" (eucalypt) tree growing in hilly, stony country.

Shape of eggs, round oval; shell fine, surface glossy. Ground colour greenish-grey, one specimen being of a darker shade; sparingly marked over the greater portion of the shell with spots of reddish-brown, which, with splashes of light slate, form an irregular ring near the larger end of the egg. Dimensions in inches:—(a) 1.06 x .8, (b) 1.05 x .8.

XANTHOTIS FILIGERA (Streak-naped Honey-eater).—Clutch, two eggs, taken by H. G. Barnard at Lockerbie, Cape York, 18/11/10. Nest composed of strips of bark and fibre, woven together, and lined with fibre; placed in a mango-tree.

Shape of eggs, long oval; shell fine and very glossy. Colour pinkish-white, freckled all over with small spots of bright brownish-red, these spots being thicker towards the larger end, where they are mixed with small splashes of pale purple.

* *Bull. B.O.C.*, No. clxiv.

The eggs are different in colour from those of any other Honey-eater I have seen, and approach rather closely to those of *Piezorhynchus gouldi*, but are larger and more glossy. Dimensions in inches :—(a) .93 x .69, (b) .97 x .69.

TRICHOGLOSSUS SEPTENTRIONALIS (Northern Blue Mountain Lorikeet).—Clutch, two eggs, taken by H. G. Barnard at Lockerbie, Cape York, North Queensland, 22/10/10, from a hollow spout of a *Melaleuca* tree. Eggs placed 18 inches from entrance of spout, which was 58 feet from the ground.

Shape of eggs round oval; surface of shell rather coarse, pitted and dull. Colour white, but stained by decayed wood. Dimensions in inches :—(a) 1.0 x .84, (b) .96 x .84.

HALCYON BARNARDI, Campbell (Barnard Kingfisher).—Clutch, five eggs, taken by H. G. Barnard at Lockerbie, Cape York, North Queensland, 5/11/10, from a hollow scooped out of a termites' nest in a tree, 20 feet from the ground.

Shape of eggs, round oval; shell very fine and glossy. Colour pure or pearly white. Dimensions in inches :—(a) .9 x .84, (b) .9 x .83, (c) .92 x .8, (d) .92 x .8, (e) .9 x .82.

Stray Feathers.

FLIGHT OF SWIFTS. — From 11 a.m. to 12 noon a flock of perhaps 1,000 Spine-tailed Swifts (*Chætura caudacuta*) were flying overhead to-day, at heights varying from a few yards to 300 yards. They immediately preceded a change in the weather to rain. Should you receive word of this flock from others, it would help to determine their line of flight and rate of progress.—A. CHAS. STONE. Prospect, *viâ* Sale. 9/2/11.

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NESTING SITE OF PARDALOTE.—In illustration of the curious position birds will sometimes select for a nesting site, I may mention two instances connected with the little Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*). At Tobay, W.A., I found a tunnel driven into the sands hardly above high water mark. Indeed, the spray from only a moderately large roller would have washed right into it. The second instance was a tunnel actually driven under a sleeper of the Denmark railway. Both nests contained eggs.—F. L. WHITLOCK. Young's Siding, D.R. (W.A.)

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PETRÆCA PHŒNICEA BREEDING IN GIPPSLAND.—On the 13th of last October, when wandering along a secluded creek in the hilly district of Callignee, I observed a male Flame-breasted Robin feeding his mate. Thinking there must be a nest close at hand, I watched them. The female soon flew to a bank, where I discovered her sitting on a clutch of three eggs, which greatly