

Description of Nest and Eggs of the Rufous-crowned Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus ruficeps*, Campbell).

By H. L. WHITE, M.B.O.U., R.A.O.U.

Types.—Two eggs, swollen or rounded oval in shape; surface of shell fine and slightly glossy. Ground colour white (possessing a very slight trace of pinkish-buff), well marked all over, particularly at the larger ends, with spots and specks of reddish-brown, while intermingled here and there are a few of light umber.

Specimen A is heavily marked at the larger end, while the zone in specimen B is more irregular and broken and the markings smaller.

The eggs appear to be intermediate in size between those of *Stipiturus westernensis* and *S. mallee*.

(a) .60 x .47, (b) .61 x .47.

Nest an oval structure, with entrance at the side like the nest of *Malurus*. Composed of fine bark, grass, and spiders' webs, lined with feathers and flowers of shrubs. It was situated about 120 yards from the beach, and placed a foot from the ground in the middle of a small bush. When the bird got off the nest it fluttered through the undergrowth, and appeared again about 15 yards away on the top of another shrub. Two eggs were in the nest, with incubation about five or six days old, judging by their appearance when blown.

Taken for Mr. Rowland Archer by Mr. Jim Box at North-West Cape, Western Australia, on 13th October, 1916.

Description of the Eggs and Nesting-place of *Strix candida*, Tickell (*Tyto longimembris walleri*, Mathews), Australian Grass-Owl.

By A. CHAS. STONE, R.A.O.U., SOUTH YARRA, VICTORIA.

THE rarity of the eggs of this bird must be my apology for the following extended description of them and the nesting-site.

Could refers to them as being rare birds, but gives no information relating to either nest or eggs, whilst both Campbell and Mathews refer to Mr. J. A. Boyd as having found, on 1st June, 1884, in the Herbert District, Queensland, two nests of this bird, each of which contained three young ones and one egg, and that it was a curious fact that, though this bird always lays four eggs, he had never found more than three young ones in a nest, one egg always being addled.

On 9th May, 1917, Mr. Fredk. L. Berney wrote me to the effect that he had recently found a nest of *Strix candida* containing the unusual number of six eggs, and, as they were "not common," he was sending them down to me. Owing to his kind thoughtful-

ness they reached me in perfect condition on 21st May, 1917, and are now in my collection. The particulars are as follows:—

Set of six eggs found by Mr. Fredk. L. Berney at Torilla, 80 miles north-west of Rockhampton, Queensland; date, 19th March, 1917. Incubation, $\frac{2}{10}$. Colour, pure white. Surface, slightly glossy. Texture.—Finely pitted, with limy nodules irregularly distributed, being much thicker over the basal and zonal portions. Shape, slightly ovate.

Measurements in millimetres:—(1) 32 x 44, (2) 32 x 43, (3) 31 x 44, (4) 33 x 43, (5) 32 x 42, (6) 33 x 44, averaging $32\frac{1}{2}$ x $43\frac{1}{2}$.

No. 4 has the fewest limy nodules, and under the lens shows several scratches in the apical portion. No. 5 is the most spherical. No. 6 is somewhat nest-stained, and has several slight longitudinal creases up to 25 mm. in length.

Mr. Berney states:—"The eggs were laid on such grass as was trodden down by the Owls moving about under a clump of big, coarse grass about 4 feet high, situated on half an acre of dry land surrounded by swamp and marsh. Under this grass the Owls had trodden between the tussocks of grass a labyrinth of winding passages or runs, at the end of one of which were placed the six eggs. There is no doubt about the identification. The two old birds were at the nest when it was found."

Procellariiformes in Western Australia.

BY W. B. ALEXANDER, M.A., R.A.O.U.

ON 13th May, 1916, four days after a strong westerly storm, I found on the beach at Cottesloe a specimen of the Fleshly-footed Petrel (*Hemipuffinus c. carneipes*, Gld.) This bird had previously only been recorded from the south coast of Western Australia, between the Recherche Archipelago and Cape Leeuwin, so that the present record extends the range of the species some 200 miles northwards on the west coast. The specimen was too far gone for preservation, but the skull is now in the Western Australian Museum.

On a voyage from Fremantle to Melbourne in July, 1916, I made the following observations on birds of this group:—On the 15th we were off Cape Leeuwin, coming eastward, at about 8 a.m.; by 10 o'clock we were already being followed by about 30 individuals of *Thalassarche melanophrys*, amongst which were a few *Nealbatrus chlororhynchus*. At 11 the former were even more numerous, while the latter had completely disappeared. At 12.30 the first *Diomedea exulans* made its appearance, together with a pair of *Phaebetria fusca*. At 3.45 p.m. a single *Nealbatrus chlororhynchus* was observed, and this was the last seen on the voyage. All the way across the Bight *Thalassarche melanophrys* was the predominant species. Usually one or two *Diomedea exulans* were in sight, and in the western part of the Bight