

amental group of bird individuals, absolutely separated by a peculiar assemblage of characters from all other bird individuals. In a classification based on constant characters, the species is the unit of a system. Within the species occur the individual, dichromatic, and geographic variations.

It devolves upon the systematist to determine the species and the range and character of their variations. But it does not devolve upon the systematist to reduce classification to a state of chaos by attempting to make definite indefinite variations.

Camera Craft Notes.

White-fronted Chats.—There is no series of pictures which has cost us more time and trouble than that of the White-fronted Chat (*Ephthianura albifrons*). This fact may surprise observers who know how common the bird is around Melbourne. It nests quite freely in the suburbs, and our photographic experience of it has been limited practically to Preston, very little beyond the outer fringe of the suburban habitation. From the days of eleven years ago, when we operated with a ten-shilling camera, we have disturbed scores of Chat families with our attentions, and the total result, so far as adult birds are concerned, is the two pictures reproduced. That of the male was obtained after a three-hours' wait in the branches of a wattle tree near the nest. The picture of the female, taken during a subsequent season, cost us no less trouble. In each case one exposure only was made. We often wonder whether the experience of other photographers agrees with ours as regards birds which build in populated parts. They all appear to possess a deep-seated objection to a very close acquaintanceship with man. Birds of the secluded parts, on the other hand, treat camera and operator with an indifference born of ignorance.—R. T. LITTLEJOHNS, R.A.O.U., and S. A. LAWRENCE, R.A.O.U. Melbourne, 27/2/1920.

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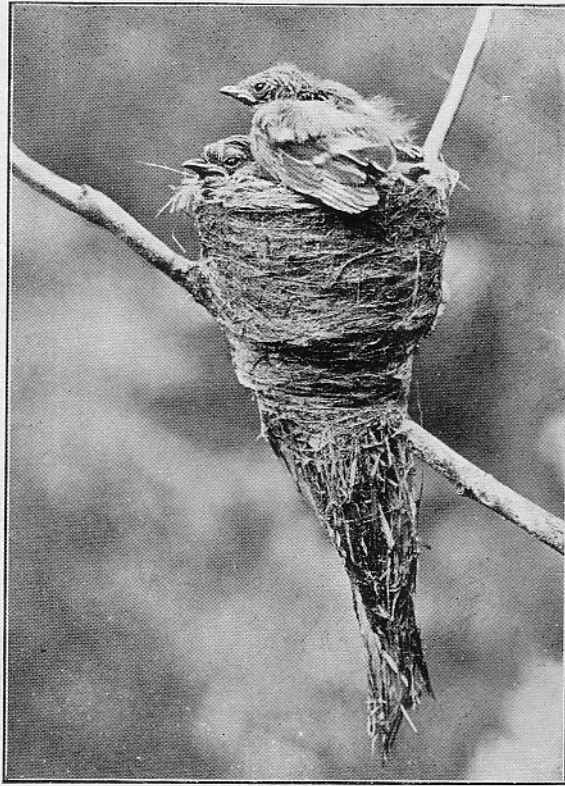
WHILE waiting to photograph a White-shafted Fantail at the nest shown in the illustration, the behaviour of the two old birds was of peculiar interest. The female bird fed the young brood fearlessly, but the male bird would not come to the nest, although he hovered near with food. After a time this seemed to exasperate the mother Fantail, and she chased her mate through the scrub with angry chatter, and finally took the food from him and fed the young ones. This happened several times, until at last the male mustered up sufficient courage to feed the chicks himself. The photograph of the young Penguins was taken at Phillip Island, and shows the birds in an interesting stage of moulting.—L. G. CHANDLER.



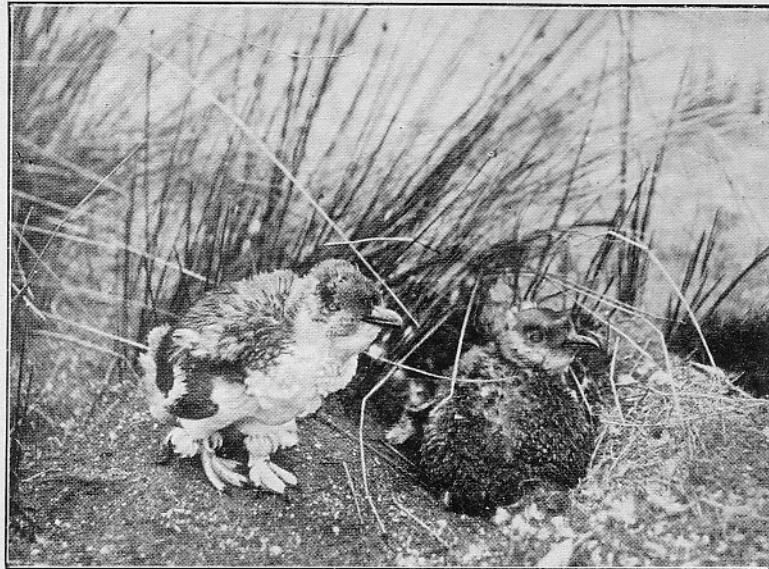
White-fronted Bush-Chat (*Ephthianura albifrons*) and Nest. Female.

Male.

PHOTOS, BY R. S. LITTLEJOHNS AND S. A. LAWRENCE, M.S.R.A.O.U.



Young White-shafted Fantails (*Rhipidura albiscapa*).



Young of Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*).

PHOTOS. BY L. G. CHANDLER, R.A.O.U.