

Camera Craft

Pallid Cuckoo's Egg in Pipit's Nest.—On December 28th last I found a nest of the Pipit (*Anthus australis bistratus*) containing three eggs, one of which was of the Pallid Cuckoo. Two days afterwards the young of the Pipit had hatched out and the Cuckoo was close upon that stage, but when I visited the nest the following day it had completely disappeared with eggs and young. Gregory Mathews, in his recent work on Australian



Nest of the Tasmanian Pipit containing two eggs of the Pipit and one of the Pallid Cuckoo.

Photo. by M. S. R. Sharland, R.A.O.U.

birds includes *Anthus australis* in the list of the Pallid Cuckoo's foster parents, but such a thing is rare with the Tasmanian form, *A. australis bistratus*. Littler, in his work on Tasmanian birds, has no mention of it, while Mr. Robert Hall and other local ornithologists have no knowledge of previous cases. The intruding egg was considerably larger than those of the rightful owner, and the contrast in the colouring of the two kinds was most

marked, the light pinkish hue of the Cuckoo's being most conspicuous against the sombre colouring of the Pipit's egg.—M. S. R. SHARLAND, R.A.O.U., Hobart.

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Nest of Black Tree-creeper.—In continuation of the description of nest of *Climacteris melanota* given in *The Emu*, ante., p. 166, Mr. McLennan has sent me a photo., which appears in this issue, and some further notes, from which I take the following description of what appears a typical nest.

"12/11/21.—A fresh lot of *Climacteris melanota* seen; one appeared to come from a hollow 40 feet from the ground in a Bloodwood (*Eucalyptus*) tree. Watch this tree for about an hour, but the birds had disappeared. Locate them again about 200 yards away, watch them for half an hour; no result. Go back and climb to hollow from which I thought the bird had flushed; could not see into it, so broke part of the entrance away. Nest in it all right, apparently finished and ready for eggs; but I suppose the birds will leave it now.

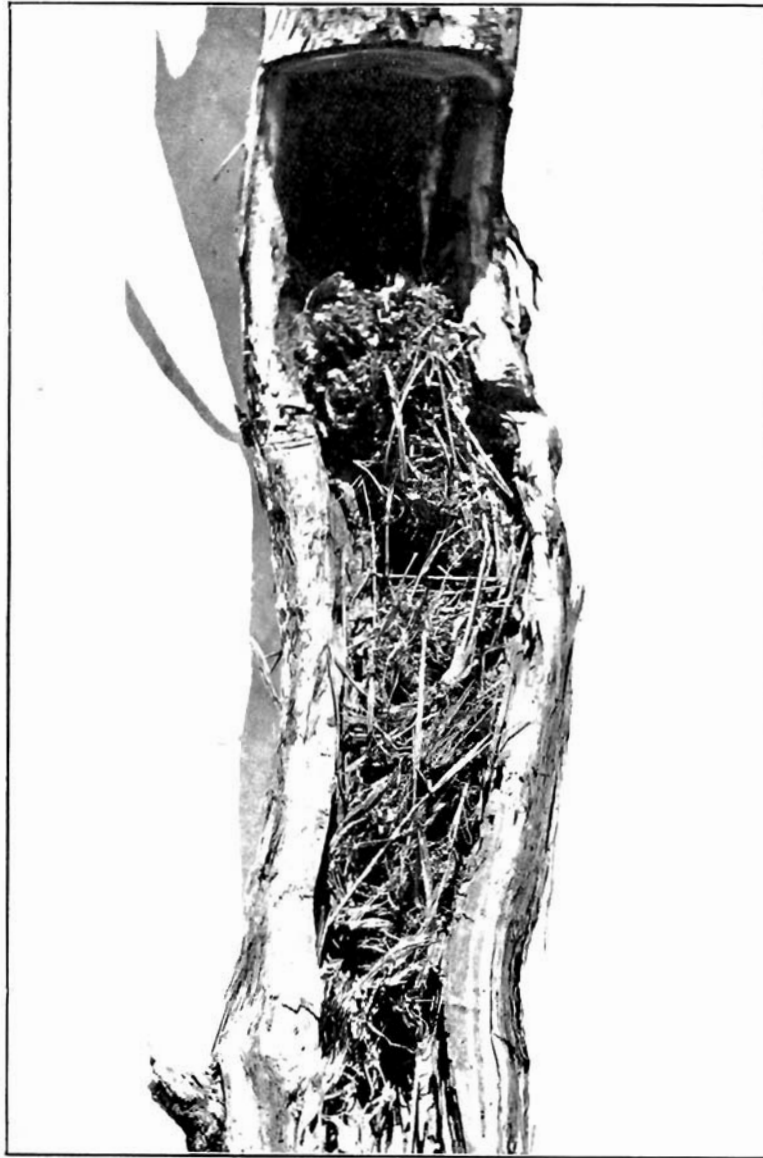
"21/11/21.—Nest of *Climacteris melanota* that I found on 12/11/21 appears deserted.

"25/11/21.—Go to where *Climacteris melanota* had deserted a nest noted 12/11/21. Cut off limb to examine and get description. Nest in an upright dead limb, hollow for 3 feet; base of nest four inches of coarse tufts of grass and strips of bark; on top of this four inches of horse manure, some of the balls unbroken (in another nest dingo droppings were used instead.—H.L.W.); then the lining or nest proper consisting of fine shredded bark, fine short grass, wallaby fur, cattle hair, a few snake-scales, and a handful almost of small bits of charcoal. Entrance to hollow, 3 inches; depth to nest, 12 inches, where the diameter was 4 inches; base of nest almost destroyed by termites."—HENRY L. WHITE, "Belltrees," N.S.W. 5/9/22.

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A Climb to the Nest of the Mistletoe-Bird.—Sydney William Jackson, age 40 years, weight 16 stone, climbing a *Eucalyptus crebra* sapling to secure a specimen of the Mistletoe (*Loranthus pendulus*) by the nest of the Mistletoe-Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), Belltrees, February, 1922; it is considered that Mr. Jackson is able to climb any man his age and weight in Australia.

Mr. D. Le Souef, until recently Hon. General Secretary R.A.O.U., has a spare set of Mathews' fine work, "The Birds of Australia," to dispose of. The first seven volumes are well bound, the rest unbound; the latter include five parts of Volume 8 and four parts of Volume 9. The total cost is £94/10/—the cost price. The work is still coming out.



Nest of the Black Tree-Creeper.

Photo. by W. McLennan, R.A.O.U.



Sid. W. Jackson, R.A.O.U., at nest of Mistletoe-Bird.

Photo. by H. L. White, C.F.A.O.U., "Belltrees," Scone, N.S.W.