

plumage, squatted down on the ground as if on a nest, her mate standing behind her. Feeling confident that the bird was only trying to fool me, I remained standing still, and, after a minute or so, she got up and moved a few yards before sitting down again. Being certain now that she was only putting up a bluff, I proceeded slowly on my way. Immediately the birds changed their tactics, and came running straight towards me, making a loud hissing note, the wings being slightly lifted and the tail raised and spread in a fan like that of a Turkey. About five yards away the front bird, still I think the hen, halted and spread out her wings to their full extent, twisting them at the same time so that they were held vertically, the beautifully marked under surface being directed straight towards me. The mottled brown, grey and white marks and patches beneath the wings and the black and white spots at the tips of the tail feathers were thus fully displayed, whilst the remarkable hissing sound was kept up almost without intermission. The male was meanwhile indulging in a precisely similar display, but keeping some yards behind his mate.

Each time I took a step the bird came nearer, till she was within two yards of me, and it seemed that at her next advance she would commence the onslaught that she had been threatening. The performance had, however, attracted the attention of a cow grazing in the paddock, and also of my host, who had heard the curious noise from the house several hundred yards away. These reinforcements approaching simultaneously from opposite sides frightened the birds, and they resumed their normal demeanour.

It was now almost dark, so I forbore hunting for the nest, which I was convinced was close at hand, for fear of treading on it without seeing it. Less than a minute's search the following day revealed an egg and a newly hatched bird on the ground close to the spot where I had been standing. The second egg hatched next day, but this chick unfortunately died directly after leaving the egg.

I am informed by an old inhabitant of the district that he has seen the birds driving away cows from their nests by the method described, but I have not met with a description of it in print. It would be interesting to hear of other instances of these shy birds behaving so boldly in defence of their nests.—  
W. B. ALEXANDER, Sherwood, near Brisbane. November, 1921.

#### ERRATUM.

A slight error crept into the lines beneath photographs of Tree-creepers' nests, published in *The Emu* for October. Both pictures—one by Mr. A. H. Chisholm and the other by Mr. D. W. Gaukrodger—were, as the accompanying letterpress showed, referable to the Brown Tree-creeper, not to the White-throated Tree-creeper.