

N. pileata. Black-capped Sittella.—Rare—we have only four records.
Climacteris picumnus. Brown Tree-Creeper.—Exceedingly common.
Dicaeum hirundinaceum. Mistletoe-bird.—Only to be observed in the vicinity of the Campaspe River.

Pardalotus ornatus. Red-tipped Pardalote.—Very plentiful.

Zosterops halmaturina, Grey-backed Silvereye, *Melithreptus lunatus*, White-naped Honeyeater, *M. brevirostris*, Brown-headed Honeyeater, and *Zanthomiza phrygia*, Regent Honeyeater.—Pay spasmodic visits in flocks.

Meliphaga melanops. Yellow-tufted Honeyeater.—Only one record—a pair.

M. penicillata. White-plumed Honeyeater.—Most common bird.

Myzantha melanocephala. Noisy Miner.—This most annoying bird is found wherever there are trees.

Entomyzon cyanotis. Blue-faced Honeyeater.—Now very rare here.

Philemon corniculatus. Noisy Friar-Bird.—Small flocks generally visit this district in December.

P. citreogularis. Little Friar-Bird.—Returns annually in September and October and breeds freely generally near water.

Anthus australis. Groundlark.—Very plentiful.

Mirafrja javanica. Horsfield Bushlark.—Not uncommon.

Zonæginthus guttatus. Diamond Firetail.—Not common.

Taniopygia castanotis. Zebra Finch.—Huge numbers breed almost throughout the year.

Ægintha temporalis. Red-browed Finch.—Recorded in only one season.

Corvus coronoides, Australian Raven, and *Corcorax melanorhamphus*, White-winged Chough.—Very common.

Strepera versicolor. Grey Currawong.—Now seldom noticed. Last record was a wandering flock of thirty birds two years ago.

Cracticus torquatus. Grey Butcher-Bird.—Not common, but evenly distributed.

Gymnorhina tibicen. Black-backed Magpie.—Very common.

G. hypoleuca. White-backed Magpie.—Very rare.

The Eggs of the Golden Whistler

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For many years I have been keenly interested in the mutability of the colouration of the eggs of the Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*). The species is a very common one, extending, as it does, from Cape York right down the eastern coast of Australia to Victoria and Tasmania, and across the continent to Western Australia, occurring well into the interior of all the states. It is a particularly local form, and once the breeding season has begun will remain faithful to the same spot. Indeed, its life is usually spent in the one locality. The law of variation is a remarkable one, and, from an oological point of view, is wonderfully exemplified in this species, but this much is certain, that each particular female lays her eggs true to her own particular type all her life. In colour, shape, and disposition of marking, this practically applies to all birds, but possibly nowhere is this stability so apparent as in the *Pachycephala pectoralis*.

The typical egg of the species is buff or yellowish white in colour, minutely freckled with brown or greyish markings

and those characteristics appear to be fixed in the eggs of birds inhabiting the dry inland tracts. In the dense coastal forest country, with a correspondingly greater rainfall, mutation is most marked, and more particularly in New South Wales and Victoria. The eggs of the mallee form, *P. p. bettingtoni* never vary, and it would be interesting to know if the red mutation occurs in the Tasmanian *P. p. glaucura*. Mutation also occasionally occurs in the eggs of *P. rufiventris*, but not in *P. olivacea*, as far as I am aware. In my collection there are many types, and five are easily recognisable—the others being intermediate.

Type A. Buff or yellowish white in colour, with spots of grey or dark brown with umber markings appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. This is the most common type. Others are very similar to those of the Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*), and others again have a deeper yellow shell with larger and bolder markings.

Type B. Snowy white in colour, with dark brown and blackish markings of unusually large size, and like miniature eggs of the Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*). On November 4, 1922, I found the first clutch of three eggs of this type, and three more sets were taken that season. Eggs were taken from this pair of birds for three years, all were alike and all the nests were found close to the original spot. We looked in vain for these eggs in 1925, but the birds were missing, due, I think, to the depredation of boys with pea-rifles, who were sharply rebuked. At Tremont, on October 30, 1927, I again took a set of this type, and a fortnight later got another clutch from the same birds. In 1928 Mr. N. J. Favalaro obtained an identical clutch and was greatly surprised when I told him the exact locality where he had collected them.

Type C. Olive brown in colour, approaching fairly close to those of *P. rufiventris*.

Type D. Red mutation with spots and splashes of red-brown and grey, the latter beneath the surface of the shell. This type has been taken by me at many places in Victoria, but at Mitcham one female lays a very large and beautiful type. They resemble somewhat those of the Lewin Honey-eater (*Meliphaga lewini*) but the ground colour is of a beautiful salmon-pink, splashed with large markings of red and brown and highly glossed. The first clutch from this female was taken on November 7, 1922, and I have taken her eggs every season since; each succeeding season they appear more beautiful. Strangely enough, this female lived in close proximity to the bird laying the black and white eggs and her nest was usually placed about eight feet up in a wild-cherry tree (*Exocarpia*).

Type E. White background with light markings of lavender. This is a rare type, and I have only taken it twice—once at Ringwood and again at Tremont.