

2. *A. pusilla*.—The "Checklist" includes, amongst other species of *Acanthiza*, the following: Tasmanian Thornbill (*A. ewingi*), Mountain Thornbill (*A. katherina*), Brown Thornbill (*A. pusilla*), Broad-tailed Thornbill (*A. apicalis*), Whitlock Thornbill (*A. whitlocki*), Red-tailed Thornbill (*A. hamiltoni*), Inland Thornbill (*A. albiventris*). Mathews says they are all *pusilla*. It is obvious therefore, that at least they must be somewhat alike, and to my mind it is equally obvious that the mere examination of dried skins will never settle the matter and is unsatisfactory as the sole basis for separating specimens which are so much alike. Written descriptions of the nests should help in view of the fact that those built by most undisputed species of *Acanthiza* differ individually. But the descriptions available are so lacking in detail that no one could visualize the nests from them.

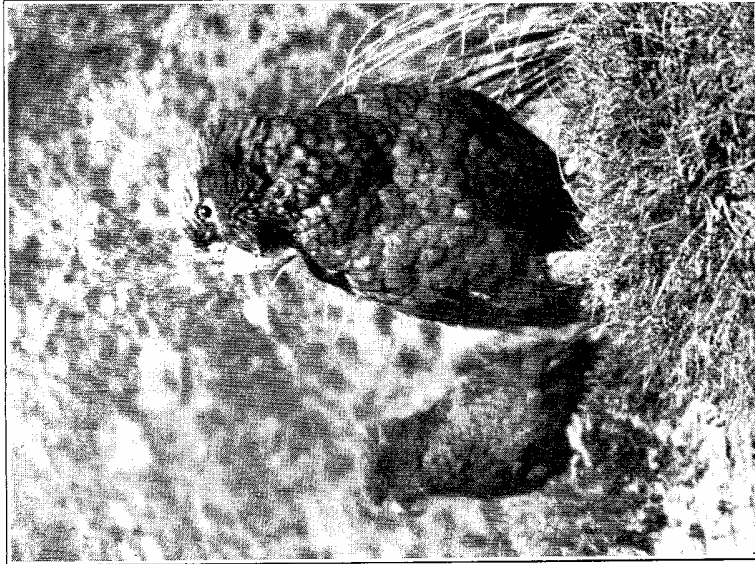
I would suggest, therefore, that, before the next revision of the "Checklist" is undertaken, some further data on this matter of nesting be collected. It is remarkably interesting work and should appeal to the field worker. If any race of birds like *A. pusilla* differs essentially in its nest structure from the typical *pusilla*, then that might be a ground for separating it.

Nest architecture seems to be a trait which persists, a fact that is apparent when one remembers how Pardalotes build a domed nest at the end of a burrow. Undoubtedly, the typical *pusilla* has in its repertoire of notes one series which identifies it immediately, and although I am quite aware that such cannot be taken as a point of identification by the cabinet worker, yet to the field worker it is a very distinct indication.

My apologies are offered for bringing before members so much which may seem trivial, but it is a dislike to such trivialities which has influenced me to write this note, and I would enter a plea for the broadest views by those interested in classification. In my opinion, unless there is a very valid reason for it, specimens which are very much alike should not be separated into numerous species simply on account of some slight climatic variation of colour alone. Nothing alienates the interest of many birdmen more than such a process and it is neither scientific on the one hand nor helpful on the other.

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Mrs. Perrine Moncrieff submitted several illustrations to accompany her contribution "Two Trips into the Hinterland of Nelson Province, New Zealand," (*The Emu*, Vol. xxxv, pp. 137-144), but suitable prints were not available until after publication. Two of the illustrations appear opposite this reference.



Keas inspecting a bright object about six feet away.



Kakapo country.

Photos. by Mrs. Perrine Monaroff.