

Birds Identified on the Capricorn Group during Expedition of R.A.O.U., 8th to 17th October, 1910.

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U., AND CAPT. S. A. WHITE.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*).

Each island visited seemed to be the abode of a pair of Sea-Eagles. Eyries with young were observed and photographed on Mast-Head and Erskine Islands. In the former the nest was in a large *Pisonia* tree, which was about 60 feet high. The Eagles, when hovering over an island, particularly in the mornings, made Goose-like cackling notes. They did not seem to prey on the birds of the locality, but on sea-snakes and fish.

Two nests were discovered on North-West Island, both in *Pisonia* trees, at either end of the island. One was situated on the highest tree on the island—one of great girth and few limbs. The nest was a huge collection of boughs and sticks, and contained fully-fledged young, which in colour much resemble the Wedge-tailed Eagle, and could easily be mistaken for that bird. The other nest also contained young. The old birds were very quiet, and sat by the nest, and allowed one to approach the base of the tree before taking flight. At dusk every evening these fine birds visited the part of the island on which the camp was situated, and would swoop down amongst the *Pisonias*, from which the Noddy Terns would fly out in clouds; it was always too dark to make sure if the Eagles were in pursuit of the Terns, but we supposed this was the case, otherwise why should they come there at that time—*i.e.*, when the Terns had congregated from the surrounding sea.

PIED CROW-SHRIKE (*Strepera graculina*).

As in the case of the Sea-Eagles, a pair of this *Strepera* appeared to occupy one or other of the principal islands. On Mast-Head a pair occasionally approached the camp, and it was pleasant, at times, to hear their loud, familiar calls, or sometimes a clear, single whistle-like note, especially at early morn (10 minutes to 5 o'clock). On first landing at North-West Island we heard a very full liquid note coming from the dense scrub, which resembled the call of some Honey-eater, but much surprise was expressed next day to find that the call was that of the Pied Crow-Shrike. A colony, apparently, of these birds had taken up their abode on North-West Island, and had brought up young for many years. During the heat of the day these birds kept to the cool shade of the high *Pisonias*, but in the early morning and evening they frequented the coast-line. The *Strepera* family have a strong odour as a rule, but the birds inhabiting the islands had a decided musky odour, resembling that of the Mutton-Bird—a circumstance worth following up, for one reason. Birds, for instance, collected on Kangaroo Island (S.A.) did not possess this peculiar smell. Did the Crow-Shrikes obtain their Petrel perfume by some connection with their (the Mutton-Birds') burrows?

CATERPILLAR-EATER (*Edoliisoma tenuirostre*).

Several male specimens of this interesting species were observed on North-West and Tryon Islands.

PIED CATERPILLAR-EATER (*Lalage leucomelæna*).

Mr. L. Harrison identified at short range, with glasses, a single specimen of this Caterpillar-eater on Mast-Head Island.

WHITE-SHOULDERED CATERPILLAR-EATER (*Lalage tricolor*).LEADEN FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra rubecula*).RUFIOUS-BREASTED THICKHEAD (*Pachycephala rufiventris*).

One or two of these birds, probably on migration only, were observed. A male of the first-mentioned was seen, and females of the others. The Thickheads were particularly merry in song on Mast-Head and Heron Islands, while on North-West Island a female was seen, singing loudly, in a group of *Pandanus* trees.

WESTERN WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops westernensis*).

Zosterops were numerous, and appeared to breed upon the islands, judging by a few old nests. As at some of our more southern camps, it was delightful to listen to the subdued chorus of the birds' sweet warbling songs at daybreak. Regularly on Mast-Head they commenced to warble from 10 to 5 minutes before 5 o'clock.

White-eyes were observed in great numbers on North-West and Tryon Islands, where, also, the nesting season had not yet commenced. Several skins were procured—the first by Mr. J. W. Mellor.

From a critical examination of these skins it is at once noticeable that they are not referable to *Z. cærulescens*, but are more in agreement with the description of Quoy and Gaimard's *Z. westernensis*.* Should further research prove them different, we venture to suggest the name *Z. chlorocephalus*, or Green-headed White-eye (on account of the "clean-cut" markings of that colour), the following being the general description:—*Male*.—Distinct ring of silvery-white round the eye, succeeded by a black line under the eye; head, mantle, upper wing coverts, and upper tail coverts bright olive-green; back grey, blending into the greenish mantle; wings and tail dark brown, the primaries and tail feathers edged with bright olive-green; chin, throat, and under tail coverts greenish-yellow; rest of the under surface greyish-blue, darkest on the chest, and approaching greyish-white on the abdomen. Bill dark brown, the basal half of the lower mandible lighter coloured; tarsus dark grey. Dimensions in inches:—Length, $4\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $2\frac{11}{16}$; bill, $\frac{7}{16}$; tail, 2; tarsus, $\frac{11}{16}$.

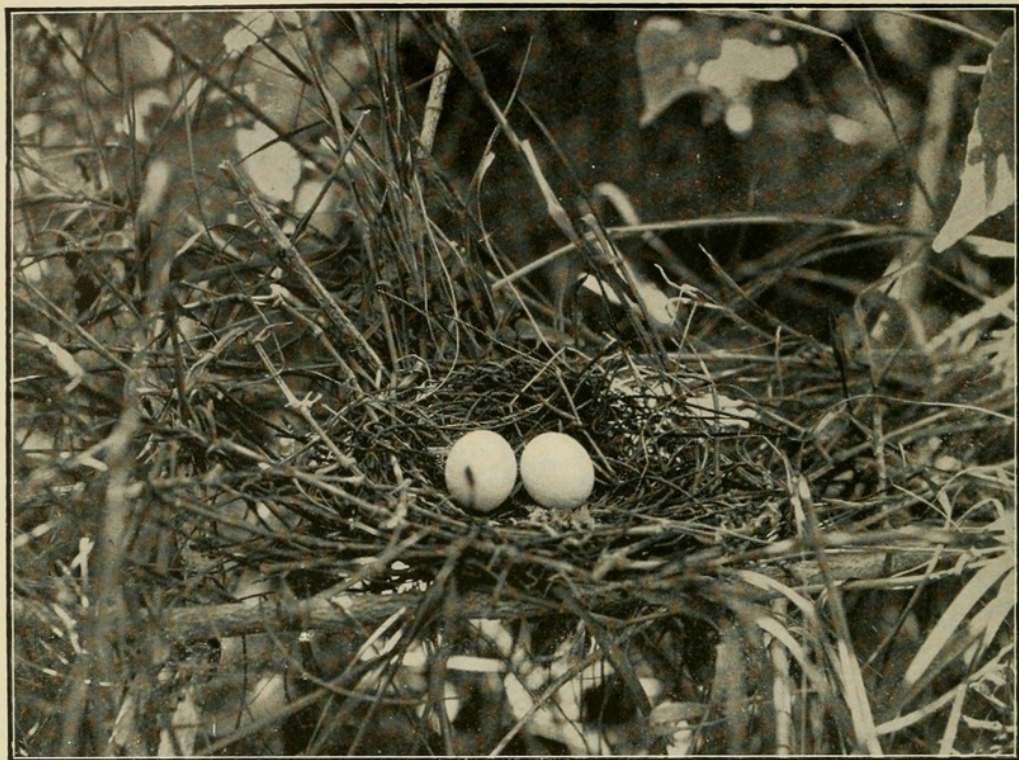
DOLLAR-BIRD (*Eurystomus pacificus*).

One bird noticed on Mast-Head Island, and a flock of five or six passed over North-West Island, apparently migrating.

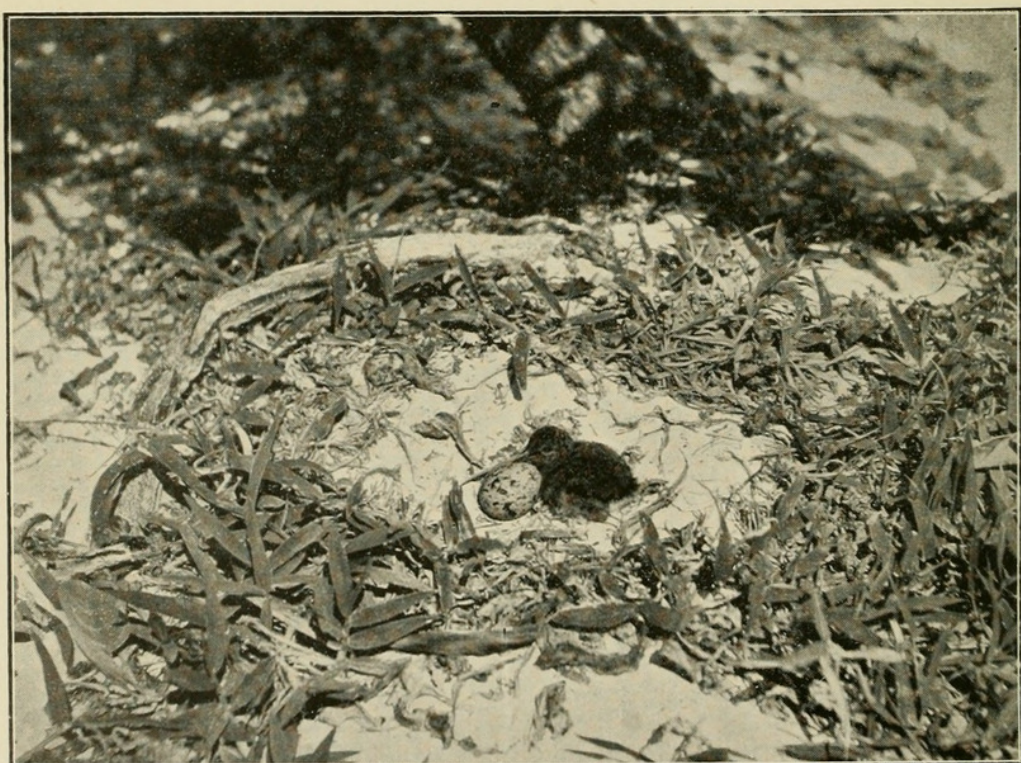
* A skin in the Melbourne Museum, from Fiji, supposed to be *Z. flaviceps* (Peale), resembles exactly the Capricorns bird. *Z. flaviceps* = *Z. westernensis*. (See Brit. Mus. Cat. Birds, ix., p. 155.)



Strand on Mast-Head Island (typical beach of other islets of the Group), where Brown-winged Terns (*Sterna anæsthetæ*) land before entering undergrowth to nest, &c.



Nest of Barred-shouldered Dove (*Geopelia humeralis*).



Black Oyster-catcher's (*Hæmatopus unicolor*) Nest.

SACRED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*).

Some Kingfishers were noticed about the islands similar to the ordinary Sacred species, but more brownish about the breast and flanks. Notwithstanding three struck the steamer's lights one night as she was riding at anchor off the island (proving a migratory disposition), some of these birds remain to breed on the Capricorns, because a nest containing eggs was observed on North-West Island. The nesting-place was a hollow limb of a *Pisonia* tree.

BROAD-BILLED BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chalcococcyx lucidus*).

Several beautiful Bronze-Cuckoos, in uniform metallic-green upper plumage, were observed, and specimens secured. These birds were exceedingly tame, catching insect prey near our camps. By dress and song it is not the Bronze-Cuckoo (*C. plagosus*) of southern parts, but is nearest in description to the New Zealand Shining Cuckoo (*C. lucidus*). In this opinion Mr. A. W. Milligan and other experts share. The winter home of the New Zealand species is supposed to be Northern Queensland and New Guinea; if that be so the Capricorns would be within the fly-line,* while October is about the time these Cuckoos reach New Zealand. The finding of these birds at the Capricorns is one of the interesting features of the expedition of the R.A.O.U.

SQUARE-TAILED CUCKOO (*Cacomantis variolosus*).

One or two observed, and a skin procured for museum purposes.

KOEL (*Eudynamis cyanocephala*).

This curious Cuckoo was not observed on North-West Island, but a shining black male was observed on Tryon Island. Probably more were about, but, being alarmed, retired into the denser scrub. What appeared to be a female Koel was noticed on Heron Island.

BARRED-SHOULDERED DOVE (*Geopelia humeralis*).

Several of these Doves were observed on Mast-Head Island, where a nest and eggs were photographed in a low bush. Very few of these birds were observed on North-West Island. Evidently wild domestic cats have exterminated them several times, but a few odd birds find their way from the other islands. This bird was found on Tryon Island.

PECTORAL RAIL (*Hypotaenidia philippinensis*).

Rails with squeaking notes were frequently heard calling, and on two occasions nests with eggs were found. Several dry carcasses or remains of Pectoral Rails were seen in the scrub on Mast-Head Island. As there were no cats or other enemies likely to kill these birds in this secure retreat, it was a mystery how they came to be destroyed. None was observed on North-West Island, where the cats had destroyed the species; but on Tryon Island Rails were exceedingly plentiful—in fact, so many in such a small

* In this connection, see late Capt. Hutton's Presidential Address, *Emu*, vol. iv., p. 93.

area as to excite wonder. A specimen was prepared, and found to be an exceedingly robust form, leading the mainland type in weight by many ounces. The rufous marking was rich and pronounced. The bird was in splendid condition.

PIED OYSTER-CATCHER (*Hæmatopus longirostris*).

SOOTY OYSTER-CATCHER (*Hæmatopus unicolor*).

Both these well-known species were noted at intervals round the islands, and were breeding, fully-fledged young and eggs both being observed. The Sooty birds were scarcer and not so confiding as the Pied variety.

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).

A fair number of these birds was seen on the sandy beaches of Mast-Head, North-West, and Tryon Islands. They appeared to have just arrived, in company with other Waders, from their Northern breeding haunts, and could have had but scant rest or nourishment on the way down, for they were very light and poor.

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius dominicus*).

A good many of these Plovers were on the beach at Mast-Head and North-West Islands when we arrived, and every day brought fresh arrivals, in an exhausted state. Several of the specimens taken had much of their black Siberian plumage remaining, and in one instance the bird was nearly in its summer dress, its breast being almost black. Plentiful also on Tryon Island.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringoides hypoleucus*).

ORIENTAL DOTTREL (*Ochthodromus veredus*).

GREY-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Heteractitis brevipes*).

These three other migratory species mingled in flocks with Turnstones and Golden Plovers, and were gathered on the reefs at low tide and on the strands at high water. A specimen of the Grey-rumped Sandpiper was taken on shore amongst the grass, evidently exhausted after a long flight. It was in good plumage, but in poor condition. Soon it revived, and was set at liberty. The Dottrel was identified beyond doubt at both camps—Mast-Head and North-West.

A grey-rumped Sandpiper was fairly numerous, which we could only refer to the above-named species, notwithstanding the legs were not so reddish in colour as some authorities describe them.

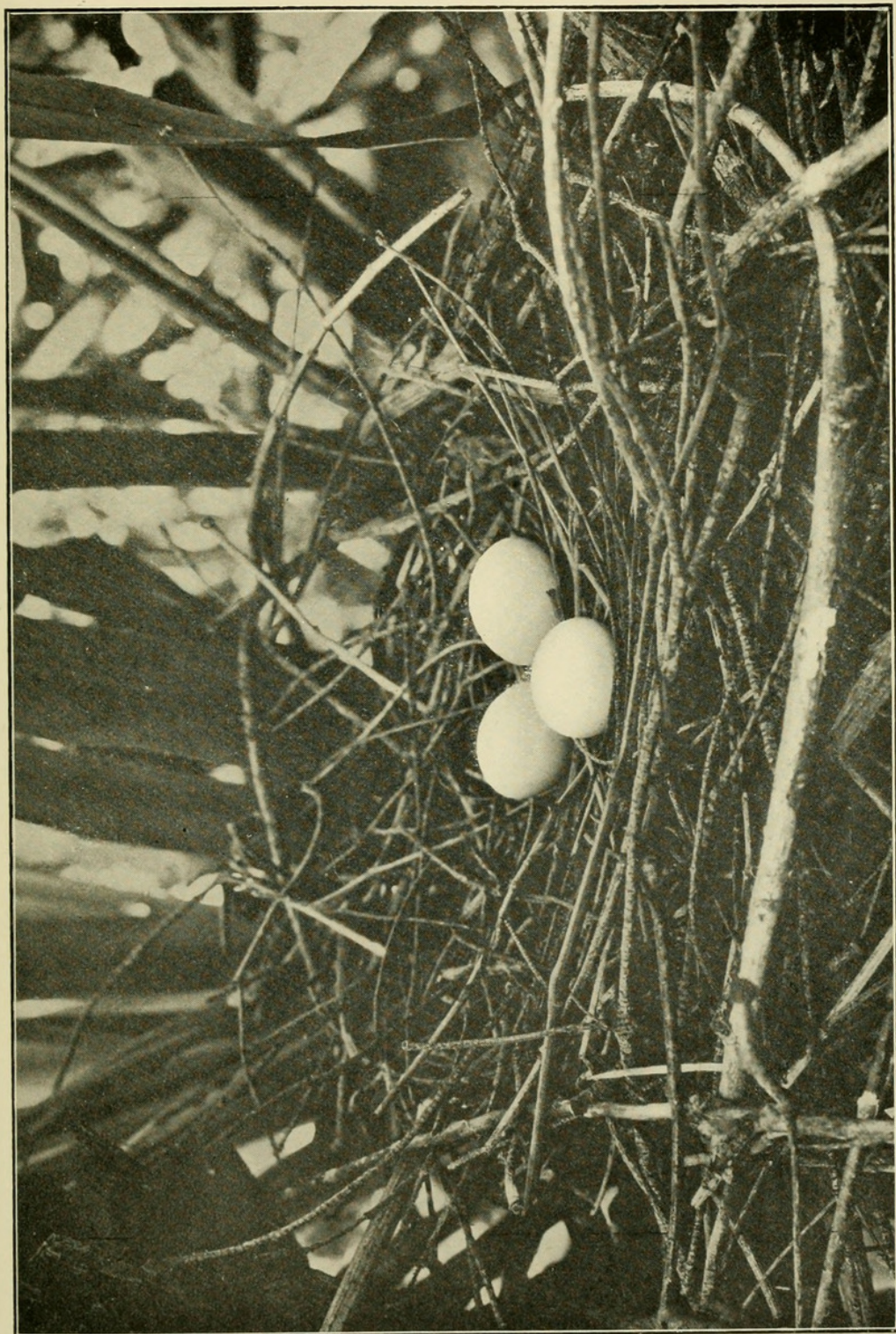
LITTLE STINT (*Limonites ruficollis*).

These small migrants are usually seen in flocks, but two only were noticed at Mast-Head Island. Drs. Macgillivray and Dobbryn observed numbers further north (see page 228).

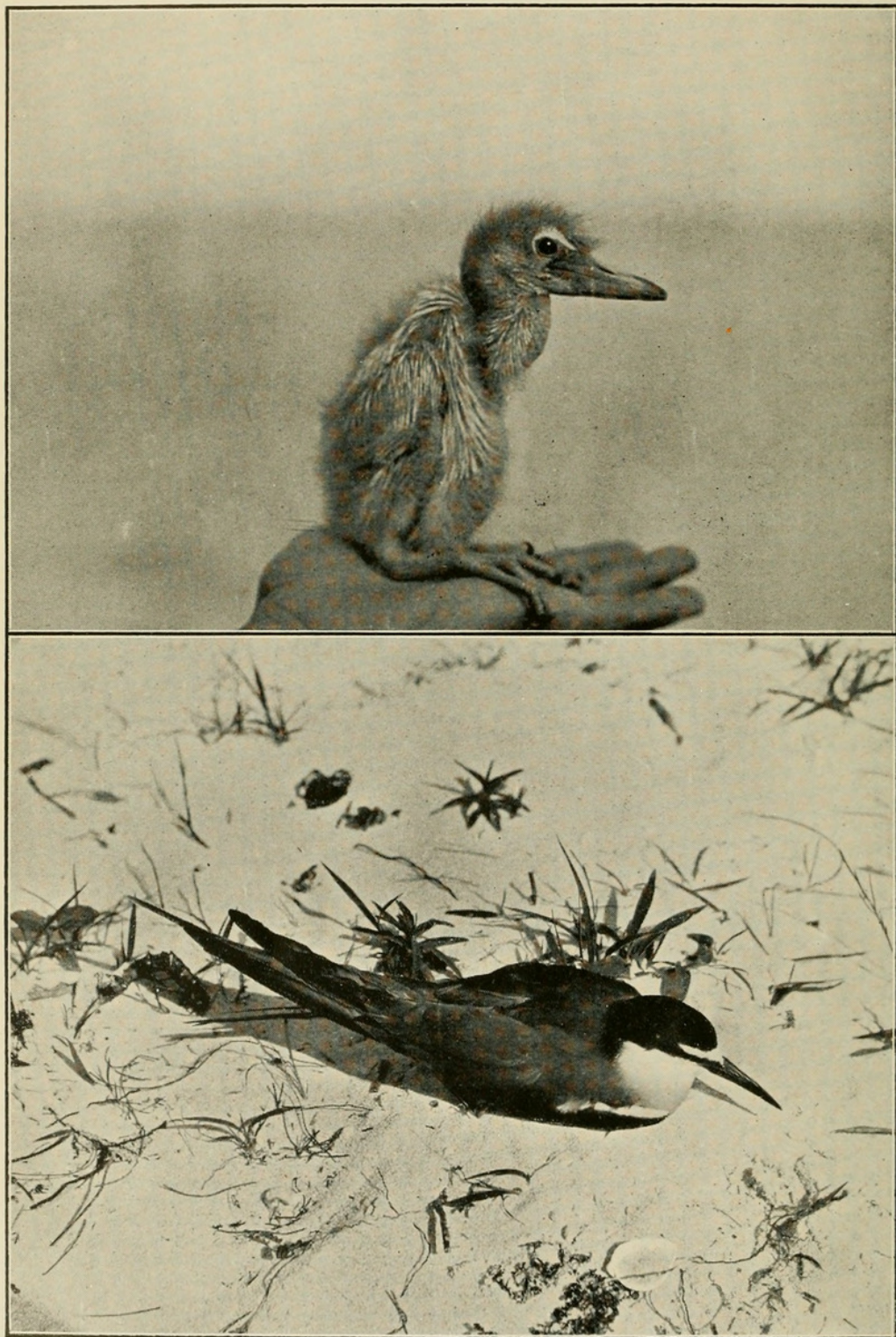
CURLEW (*Numenius cyanopus*).

WHIMBREL (*Numenius variegatus*).

A few Curlews were noticed on the islands. On North-West Island a small flock was seen the day the expedition arrived, but, being timid birds, they departed, and were not observed again.



White Reef-Heron's (*Demigretta sacra*) Nest in Pandanus tree.



Young (white phase) of Reef-Heron (*Demigretta sacra*).
Brown-winged Tern (*Sterna anæstheta*).

A specimen was shot at Gladstone (mainland) for museum purposes.

The few Whimbrels observed were exceedingly wild.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*).

Several of these birds were seen, a specimen procured, and its identity proved beyond doubt. On North-West Island, on one occasion when the camp was deserted, some Godwits were observed walking about between the tents, almost lost in the high grass. There appears to be a variation of this form, or else the male bird is much smaller and shows a strongly defined line of white from the base of the bill to the back of the head.

BARRED-RUMPED GODWIT (*Limosa novæ-zealandiæ*).

Solitary birds or pairs of this species perambulated the beaches, and now and again were observed thrusting their long bills into the dry sand. What food could they possibly obtain there?

These Godwits, being great wanderers, interested us much. They have been found as far south as Campbell Island, one of the sub-antarctic islands of New Zealand.* They breed in the high north of Eastern Siberia. No collection yet contains the eggs of this species. The ancient Middendorff has figured an egg, but does not describe it—merely mentioning that the nest is difficult to find on the marshy meadows of the tundras.

The difference in the sizes of the sexes was very noticeable. Dimensions in inches:—*Male*.—Length, 12; culmen, 3.15; wing, 8.75; tail, 3; tarsus, 2.15. *Female*.—Length, 16; culmen, 3.75; wing, 9.2; tail, 3; tarsus, 2.25.

CRESTED TERN (*Sterna bergii*).

LESSER CRESTED TERN (*Sterna media*).

BLACK-NAPED TERN (*Sterna melanauchen*).

WHITE-SHAFTED TERNLET (*Sterna sinensis*).

“Noises of the Night” would have proved quite an article in itself were a graphic description written of all the sounds—in addition to those of wind and wave—that were heard on, say, for instance, Mast-Head Island. Added to the hundreds of voices of the White-capped Noddies and Brown-winged Terns, not to mention the incoming Mutton-Birds (Petrels), there could be heard the querulous cries—an indescribable din—of Crested, Lesser Crested, and Black-naped Terns, as they rose in crowds from the sandy corners where they congregated, especially at high tide.

During the day, when the tide was out, the Terns were more scattered over the reefs, or were away fishing. There were no signs of nesting; but it was a splendid sight to witness isolated mated pairs of the large Crested Terns in the morning, mounting in spiral form and sailing on high, sometimes mere specks against the blue sky. Every now and again a couple would simultaneously,

* “Nests and Eggs” (Campbell), p. 809.

with perfect unity of action, set their lengthened pinions at a certain angle with the wind, wheel, and descend so rapidly that the cleavage of the air caused a humming sound like that of a distant deep-toned siren of a steamer.

BROWN-WINGED TERN (*Sterna anæsthes*).

On Mast-Head, on the 11th October, the first Brown-winged or Panayan Terns were observed on shore amongst the *Pandanus* roots selecting nesting sites, and many were flushed in the evening from the ground scrub. Afterwards a few were seen flying by day, but by night they were heard by hundreds, judging by their sharp, puppy-like, barking notes and gurgling calls. These graceful Terns apparently arrive after dark to select their nesting-places—merely a hollow on the bare sand underneath vegetation, particularly under the stiff aerial roots of the pandanus palms, from which secure hiding-places queer crooning noises of devoted pairs issued. When daylight arrived all the Brown-wings were silent, and many had departed for sea. However, on Mast-Head we were too early, by a few days,* for the first of their single eggs.

Small numbers of Brown-winged Terns were observed at one end of North-West Island.

WHITE-CAPPED NODDY (*Micranous leucocapillus*).

Mast-Head Island.—Almost everywhere on land, built on bushes or in trees, singly or in clusters, placed on boughs or in forks, were the nests of the graceful little White-capped Noddy, the silvery-white crown of the head contrasting to advantage, especially in the sunlight, with the otherwise dark plumage of the bird. The nests were from 7 to 9 inches across and slightly concave, and composed of flat, broad, dead leaves, matted together when moist. The Noddies were not easily disturbed from their nests, allowing observers to pass quite close to them before flushing. It was extremely interesting to watch the process of nest-building and the courting of mated pairs, and to listen to their curious frog-like croakings and calls. But the most interesting sight of all was to watch the Noddies going out at early morn to feed in the open seas beyond the reefs. From daylight to sunrise, on easy wing, the birds flew out in continuous crowds, reminding one of the wonderful flights of "Mutton-Birds" (Petrels). Again at evening the myriads of homeward-hurrying forms appeared like swarms of gnats against the roseate-tinted sky as we stood at one end of the island facing the dying day. When we first landed on Mast-Head Island (8th October) none of the Noddies had laid, although many nests were apparently ready. On the 11th one egg was found, the following day 36 were reported, and again the next day 84. Afterwards the eggs became numerous. The Noddies lay a single egg only. Noddies were observed on Mast-Head, Heron, and North-West Islands.

* Drs. Macgillivray and Dobbyn procured eggs 9 days later (20th) at the northern end of the Barrier (see page 220).

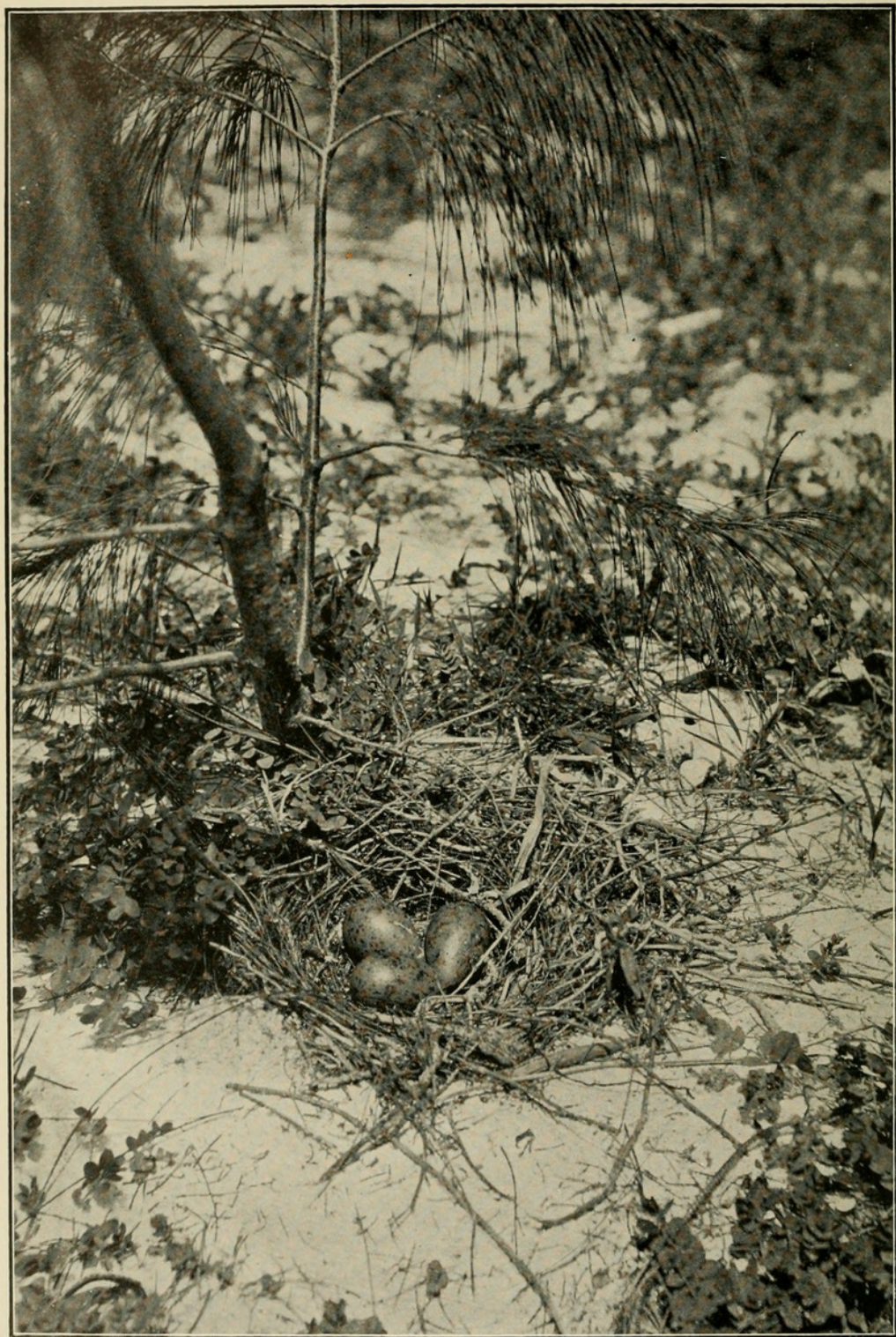
THE EMU, *Vol. X.*

PLATE XXIII.



Nest of White-capped Noddy (*Micranous leucocapillus*).

FROM A PHOTO. BY A. J. CAMPBELL.



Silver Gull's (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*) Nest at foot of Sheoak (*Casuarina*) sapling.

FROM A PHOTO. BY CHAS. BARRETT.

North-West Island.—On our arrival at North-West Island immense numbers of Noddies had congregated on the island, and were to be found at any time during the day perched on the limbs of the *Pisonia* and fig trees. Many had little collections of dead *Pisonia* leaves in the forks, or anywhere they could get a hold. On these clumps of leaves or close by the birds sat in pairs, billing and cooing to each other, and at other times giving forth deep croaking calls, or, when alarmed, rushing off with great flapping of wings and deep screechings. Orders were given not to disturb them, in hopes they would lay before we returned. However, up to the time we left the birds still moped in pairs on the limbs, went and came from the sea beyond, and were joined by ever-increasing numbers each day, and still they showed no signs of laying. On our departure (17th October) two females, on dissection, proved the ovaries were not at all advanced. Probably these birds would not have laid for the next two or three weeks at least. This was remarkable when one knows that at this date birds of the same species were laying in hundreds on Mast-Head Island, only 15 miles away. The cats introduced on to North-West Island are responsible for great havoc amongst these birds of peaceful disposition.

SILVER GULL (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*).

These beautiful although marauding Gulls were breeding at intervals round Mast-Head Island, where their nests were picturesquely constructed amongst the herbage or sheltered beneath a sheoak (*Casuarina*) sapling. No doubt the Gulls are very destructive to the eggs of the other kinds of birds frequenting the island. Judging by the manner they hawked over the *Pisonia* and other trees, the harmless little Noddies were probably special victims of the Gulls. Young in down, as well as eggs, of the Gulls were noted.

Several small communities of these Gulls frequented the sandy beaches of North-West and Tryon Islands, but no sign of nesting was observed there.

WEDGE-TAILED PETREL (*Puffinus sphenurus*).

Before we reached the Capricorns we were informed that the common Mutton-Bird (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) bred there. Not so; we found the species to be the Wedge-tailed Petrel (*P. sphenurus*), a more slender bird, with light-coloured feet. The first birds were discovered in the burrows on the 14th October. After that date the incoming of birds at night made observations interesting, especially if flapping forms entered our tents, while out of the darkness round about came rude and weird music—squealing cries and other uncanny noises—from the dusky-coloured Petrels. These Mutton-Birds came in to renovate their old burrow-nests of last season, which honeycombed the sandy earth everywhere throughout the island (Mast-Head), particularly under the *Pisonia* forest, where at almost every step the observer plunged his leg knee-deep in sand through the subsidence, under

his weight, of a subterranean burrow. Again we were too early for the harvest of eggs for food or for the collection. Probably these Petrels would commence to lay about the middle of November, if not sooner.

North-West Island Observations.—On our arrival at North-West Island not a Petrel was to be seen, although one was falling up to the thigh in their burrows at every second step. We were more than anxious to solve the doubt of the species which selected these islands to breed, as some persons were under the impression that it was our common Mutton-Bird (*P. tenuirostris*). Fortunately, four days before we left two partially-eaten birds (killed by cats) were brought in, and their black bills and flesh-coloured feet solved the mystery. Next day burrows were seen cleaned out, and on the following evening great numbers came in to renovate their breeding-holes, and the morning we left birds were trying to climb over our tents in their efforts to get to the sea just at the break of day. We did not see the birds on Tryon Island, but that island is honey-combed with burrows.

A critical examination of the skins of this Petrel has, we think, cleared up some important doubts. In the first place the birds, with their dark bills, agree with Gould's figures ("Birds of Australia," vol. vii., pl. 58), but it is unfortunate that the great ornithologist has allowed "bill reddish-fleshy" to creep into his accompanying letterpress. This must have been merely a slip of the pen, because Mr. A. J. Campbell obtained similar birds with dark bills on Abrolhos Islands, W.A.,* where Gilbert procured Gould's types of *Puffinus sphenurus*.

Dr. F. Du Cane Godman, in his recently published and excellent "Monograph of the Petrels,"† sinks the name *sphenurus* in favour of *chlororhynchus*, and figures the bird with a *reddish* bill, from the Seychelles Archipelago.

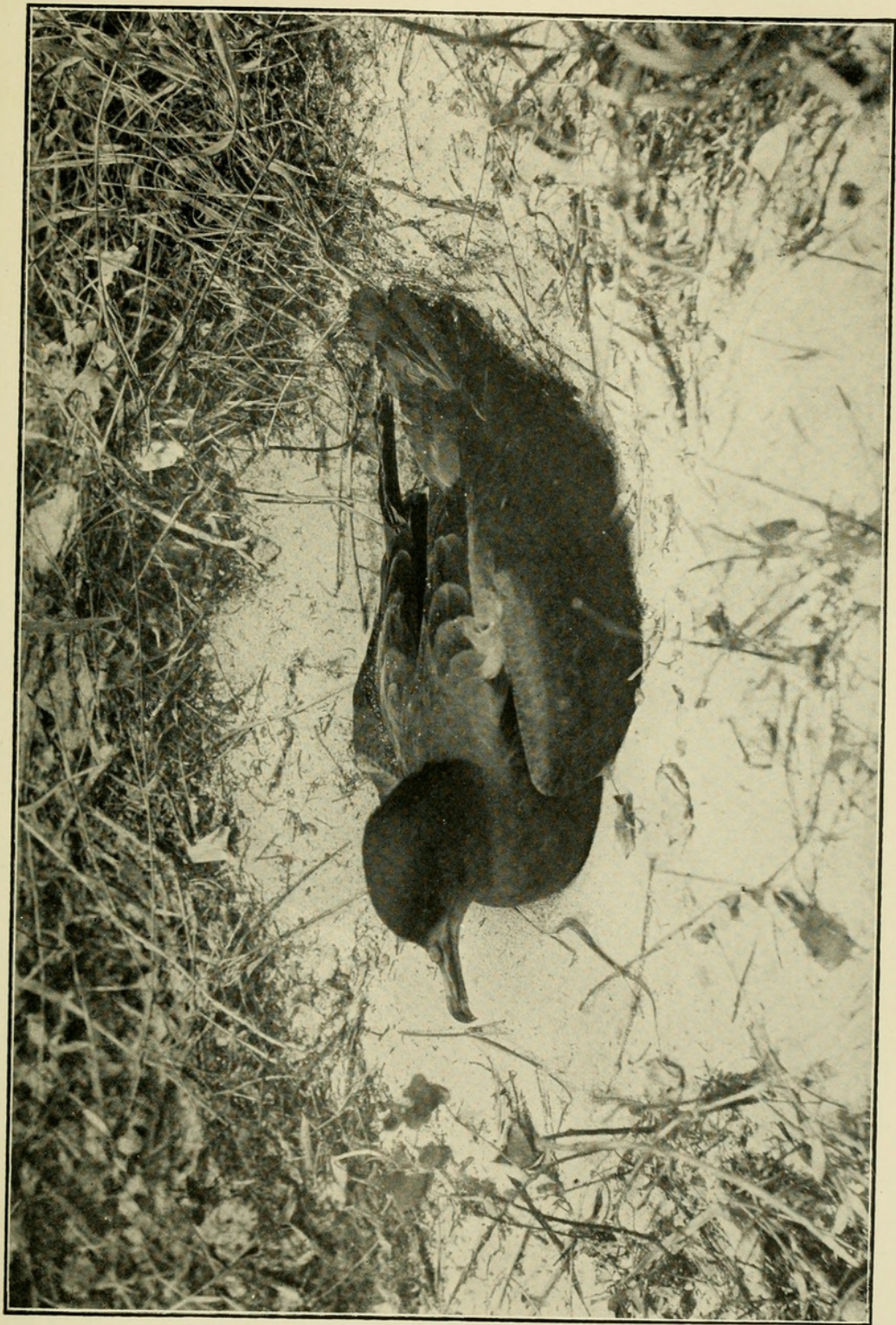
Puffinus chlororhynchus may, as Gould stated, frequent Australian seas,‡ but the birds which breed on the islands immediately off both the east and west coasts of Australia undoubtedly are *P. sphenurus*, according to Gould's original figures.

It is interesting to note (page 226) that on Raine Island, at the other end of the Great Barrier Reef, between 800 and 900 miles north, Drs. Macgillivray and Dobbryn procured the same species of Mutton-Bird (the dark-billed one) as was secured on the Capricorns; therefore it is reasonable to suppose that this species breeds along those leagues of sea on many islets suitable to its purpose. Specimens from the Capricorns and Raine Island are identical in measurements, namely (in inches):—Length, 16; wing, $11\frac{3}{4}$; bill (*i.e.*, culmen), $1\frac{3}{4}$; tail, 6; tarsus, $1\frac{7}{8}$; middle toe and claw, $2\frac{1}{2}$. General Description.—All upper surface dark chocolate-brown or sooty-black, lighter on the tips of feathers of wing coverts, and deepening into black on the primaries and tail; chin and throat

* "Proc. A. A. A. Science," vol. ii. (1890), p. 495.

† Part ii., p. 84, pl. 24.

‡ "Handbook Birds of Australia," vol. ii., p. 406.



Wedge-tailed Petrel (*Puffinus sphenurus*, Gld).

dark grey; rest of under surface greyish-brown; bill dark horn or bone brown; tarsus and feet (living specimens) fleshy-white or yellowish-flesh colour, with black mottlings down the whole of the outer side of the tarsus and outer toe to the base of last phalanx; toes whitish.*

REEF-HERON (*Demiegretta sacra*).

Reef-Herons in phases of plumage pure white and slate-coloured respectively were flushed frequently from their stick-constructed nests hidden in a thick bush or among the stiff frondage of pandanus palms. Occasionally a nest was situated on the ground under a bush. The nests contained either a pair or three eggs, sometimes a young one of quaint appearance. (See Plate XXII.)

One of the islands which we visited, named Heron Island, was so called by the early explorers because of the numbers of these birds found thereon.

Both blue and white Reef-Herons† were found on North-West Island, but not nesting. On Tryon Island many hundreds of both coloured kinds congregated on the south side for the purpose of rearing their young. Their nests, invariably placed in a depression in the ground, were composed of sticks amongst a mass of tangled creepers and running vegetation, or under a low and wide-spreading bush. The broad leaves and flower-heads of this bush (*Tournefortia argentea*) screened the eggs from the quick-eyed Silver Gull. In most cases the nests contained young, and at the sight of man these ungainly, almost naked birds sneaked off into the undergrowth. Several nests were seen containing two eggs, and but one with three eggs.

PIED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax hypoleucus*).

BLACK CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

Usually at evening small numbers of the Pied Cormorant crossed our camping quarters, evidently flying to roost on some favoured islet nearer the Barrier Reef; and on North-West Island a bird of the large Black variety was disturbed from its perch on a dead tree near the water.

BROWN GANNET (*Sula leucogaster*).

A carcass of this inter-tropical species of wide range was found on Mast-Head Island, while at North-West Island a bird answering

* The specimen I brought from Western Australia, which is in the National Museum, Melbourne, is similar, but slightly lighter coloured in plumage, no doubt due to being exposed in the case for 20 years. Dimensions:—Wing, $11\frac{1}{4}$; bill, $1\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $5\frac{1}{2}$; tarsus, $1\frac{3}{4}$; middle toe and claw, 2 inches. Regarding the range of habitat eastward of *P. sphenurus*, I have received specimens of bird and eggs taken on Surprise Island, in the region of New Caledonia.—A. J. C.

† I made close observation of these birds, and in my mind there is no doubt whatever that the white birds are a distinct species from the blue. I dissected mature males and females, white and blue. I flushed white birds from their nests with white young, and blue birds from large young of a darker colour. No one during the expedition observed a bird of mixed colour.—S. A. W.

to the description of this Gannet was seen flying low over the water one evening.

LESSER FRIGATE-BIRD (*Fregata ariel*).

Every evening about dusk a small flock of these fine birds, well known for their trait of robbing other birds,* used to circle over our island, allowing us to admire the inimitable grace and ease of their movements. We succeeded in discovering their roosting-place—tall casuarinas at the other (east) end of the island, where, on more than one occasion, we distinctly saw their lengthened forms silhouetted against a brilliant moon.

Frigate-Birds were not observed on North-West Island, but a dead bird was examined on Tryon Island.

Concluding Note.—Having enumerated the 40 species of birds identified during a brief visit to these islands, we venture to believe that the observations recorded concerning the White-eye,† New Zealand Bronze-Cuckoo, and the Wedge-tailed Petrel are, in the interests of ornithology, alone well worth the trouble and expense of the members who formed the R.A.O.U. Expedition to the Capricorns.

Description of a New Queensland Lorikeet.

BY D. LE SOUËF, R.A.O.U., MELBOURNE.

+ TRICHOGLOSSUS COLESI, *n. sp.*

The head, sides of the face, and throat dull blue, with a lighter stripe down the centre of each feather; bill reddish-brown, lighter at the tip and with a short longitudinal yellow line at the curve; lower mandible lighter than the upper one; eyes light yellow, and the bare space round them blackish; a narrow yellowish-green band across the occiput, with some of the feathers finely tipped with dark blue; all the upper surface green, but most of the feathers crossed with a dark band, edged with a narrow one, giving the back a mottled appearance; upper secondaries marked in the same way, and show a distinct dark band; the slightly spatulate tips of the lower secondaries marked with blue, as well as the tips of some of the feathers on the shoulder; the green of the outer edging of the primaries also has darker shadings; their inner webs are black, crossed by a broad band of bright yellow; upper tail coverts mostly tipped with blue; the four centre tail feathers green throughout, and the four feathers on each side of them have their outer web green and with a portion of their inner web bright yellow, and edged to the tip; these eight feathers are also spatulate. Under tail coverts reddish at their base, then yellow, fol-

* See Dr. Macgillivray's remarks, page 228.

† Notwithstanding so sound an authority as Mr. A. J. North states that "*Zosterops westernensis* is only the spring and summer livery of *Z. lateralis* (*cærulescens*)."—"Nests and Eggs of Birds," vol. ii., p. 210.



Campbell, Archibald James. 1910. "Birds Identified on the Capricorn Group during Expedition of RAOU, 8th to 17th October 1910." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 10(3), 195–204.

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