

## RHIPIDURA DRYAS (Wood Fantail).

Gould, sp. 137; Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. iv., p. 322.

The eggs and nest of this beautiful Fantail are very similar to those of its near ally, the Rufous Fantail (*R. rufifrons*). The nest was found on 18th November, situated on a thin fork near the end of a branch and about 10 feet from the ground; it was composed of fine shreds of bark and lined with fine grass seed-stalks and lightly covered outwardly with cobwebs, and measures—internal depth, 1 inch; external,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; internal breadth,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches; external, 2 inches. The nest contained two fresh eggs, which are light buff in colour and marked on the larger end only, where the small reddish-brown and greyish markings form a confluent zone. The eggs measure—(1) .66 x .48 inch; (2) .67 x .49 inch.

## PTILOSCLERA VERSICOLOR (Red-crowned Lorikeet).

Gould, sp. 447; Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xx., p. 66.

This Lorikeet is found in Northern Australia, and they generally live in flocks, except when nesting. They lay their eggs in a hollow limb, generally at a considerable distance from the ground, and the rotten wood on which the eggs are laid usually soon discolours them. The eggs are white, without gloss, and one taken on 27th January measures .98 x .78 inch. The clutch is either one or two eggs.

## PLATYCERCUS AMATHUSIA (Blue-cheeked Parrakeet).

Gould, sp. 420; Cat. B. Brit. Mus., vol. xx., p. 548.

This bird ranges over Northern Australia, and is very similar to the Pale-headed Parrakeet (*P. pallidiceps*). It was nesting in the Port Darwin district in July, two clutches of eggs being taken, one on the 10th and the other on the 14th of that month. They are pure white and glossy, and measure—A, (1) .99 x .79, (2) 1 x .78; B, (1) 1.01 x .78, (2) 1 x .80. The two nests each had two fresh eggs in, evidently uncompleted clutches.

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### Stray Feathers.

LATE CLUTCHES OF LARKS.—On 8th February I noticed a nest of the Black-breasted Song-Lark (*Cinclorhampus cruralis*) containing four eggs. On the 14th of same month I saw another nest containing five eggs—a record clutch, I think, for this species. On 26th I found a nest of the Bush-Lark (*Mirafra horsfieldi*) with three eggs on the point of hatching.—FRED. L. BERNEY. Richmond (N.Q.), 4/3/03.

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NUDE COCKATOOS.—I have a tame white Cockatoo (Sulphur-crested) which is a bit of a puzzle. He most persistently refuses to grow feathers. Eighteen months ago I took him from the nest

a most perfect, full-feathered bird. He has run at large ever since, fed on varied food. He learned to talk quickly, but, alas! moulted his beautiful white coat and is now in an almost nude state, every fresh crop of feathers being a failure, the feather or stump breaking off just close to the skin. I observed a couple of wild Cockatoos in a similar condition last week. Unnatural state of affairs, is it not?—A. M. POWELL. Bungarby, *viâ* Cooma, N.S.W.

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A "GALAH" NOTE.—Last week, as a lady was proceeding from Sandringham station to her home, she saw a bird pursued by two Hawks, which have been very bold in that neighbourhood this season. This turned out to be a "Galah" Cockatoo, which almost immediately flew on to her dress, and accompanied her home. Though at first it would allow no one but its rescuer to touch it, it afterwards proved so tame that it would perch on shoulder or arm of any member of the family, and, though at liberty, came regularly to be fed. One morning it was missing, but on "Cocky" being called two or three times it surprised the young lady looking for it by answering "Here I am," close by her. On another occasion a son was sitting under the tea-tree, smoking, and the Galah climbed on to him, only to descend at once, however, and return with a stick in its beak. This was only one of many instances of mimicry shown by it.—H. KENDALL. 17/3/03.

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HOW GANNETS DIVE.—On the 17th of October, 1902, one Gannet was diving in the estuary of the Derwent between One-Tree and Crayfish Points. This was the first I had seen since the 2nd of June, and was apparently a casual visitor, for no more appeared until the 5th of November, from which day until now (21st January) they have been seen frequently. The dive of the Gannet (so far as the eye can judge) is taken vertically, or very nearly so. As a rule the wings remain expanded until the bird reaches (or almost reaches) the water. But occasionally the wings are closed for an instant at some height above the water—perhaps in order to accelerate the speed by reducing the extent of surface to which the air offers resistance. The foregoing remarks apply to dives taken from a height of about 15 feet and over. When they are taken from a lower elevation the course is frequently an oblique one. I desire in this note to correct a formerly expressed opinion regarding the movements of the Gannet in diving.\*—J. R. M'CLYMONT. Brown's River Road, near Hobart.

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BROWN'S RIVER ROAD (NEAR HOBART) NOTES.—In the first week of August of a recent winter, a company of Yellow-rumped Tits (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*), frequenting some suburban fields,

\* Papers and Proc. Roy. Soc. Tas., 1887, p. 113.



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