

Emu Wrens breeding at Mount Compass,
South Australia.

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On the 28th December last Messrs. Edwin Ashby, F. E. Parsons and the writer visited Mount Compass swamps, with a view to learning something of the breeding habits of the little Emu Wren and other birds of that locality.

The Emu Wren's nest was found after a great deal of hunting. It was not placed in the clumps of Cutting Grass

growing in and around the swamps as was expected, but in a low stunted tea tree growth on a flat between the swamps.

A male bird was noticed skulking in a clump of dwarf mallee about three feet high and was so reluctant to leave this cover that a hunt made for his mate. After a while the female was observed on the top wire of the fence along the road, but remaining only a second or so. By closely watching it was noted that she worked her way by short low flights and runs through the bushes towards a large clump some distance away. After working on dozens of the small bushes in this clump the nest, was found. It contained two young, ones and one infertile egg. It was somewhat surprising to find that the nest was so much smaller than the Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) and not as strongly built. It measured $2 \frac{7}{8}$ inches in diameter being globular in form and built outwardly of soft dried grasses loosely woven together and inwardly was lined with soft feathers at the bottom of the egg cavity only.

The entrance appeared unnecessarily large, but this no doubt was enlarged by the birds when feeding the young, which were only a few days old. The nest was placed in the forks of a very thick stunted tea tree growth at the height of nine inches from the ground, being completely hidden from view until the bush was opened out.

To be certain of identity, this nest was visited later in the evening, when the female sat on the nest until the bush was opened up.

Though a great many of these birds were located, this was the only nest found, which is not surprising as the nest is cunningly hidden.