

Notes by the late Dr. Angove, Tea-Tree Gully, S.A.

—By J. NEIL MCGILP.—

When taking delivery of the egg collection of the late Dr. Angove, generously donated to the S.A. Ornithological Association by Mrs. Angove, jun., a few notes taken by the late Dr. Angove were found.

Thinking that these are worthy of publication, the writer takes the liberty of rewriting them.

*Acanthiza nana* (Little Tit-Warbler)—Shot one at Black Hill, Rhine Villa, October, 1905, in a pine tree, also one on September 2nd, 1906, at Mannum, at back of township. On October 2nd, 1907, E. Angove took nest and eggs about half a mile back from Mannum; nest about 12 feet from ground in a mallee, much the same character as *A. lineata*—four inches long,  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ , neatly and compactly made of fine grass, flower heads, wool, spiders' webs, and lined with feathers. The eggs, two in number, slightly incubated, much like *A. lineata*, but slightly smaller and rounder compared with clutch taken at Teatree Gully. Zone is well marked, but there the markings in most of the eggs are much more distinct and numerous. This bird is very fond of pine trees, and is everywhere found on the pine-studded flats near Mannum.

*Acanthiza pusilla* (Brown Tit-Warbler)—Found commonly in samphire country on Torrens Island, where they nest low down in the samphire bushes a foot or so from ground, and the nest is rather difficult to find. At Pt. Gawler, St. Kilda, and LeFevre's Peninsula also we have found them in same position. They are early breeders, nests being found in August.

*Myzomela nigra* (Black Honey-eater)—F. Hall obtained the nest and eggs of this bird at Teatree Gully, October, 1909. This is the only record of its nesting here for some years.

*Glyciphila albifrons* (White-fronted Honey-eater)—This bird is fairly numerous at Buckleys, near the Stone Wall, Mannum. The bird nests low down on the top of a stump of mallee cut off and just sprouting again, or in a low bush; we took one set of two eggs at end of October, 1907.

*Alcyon azurea* (Azure Kingfisher)—Just below Gumeracha Bridge and between the fords obtained a fine clutch on November 4th, 1906. The nest was in a bank alongside of a deep pool; the tunnel was about 18 inches deep and about two feet above water level, the soil being quite damp. The enlarged chamber at end of tunnel, in which were the eggs, was a good size, and the eggs, six in number and fresh, were lying on powdered-up crayfish shells.

*Cacomantis flabelliformis* (Fantailed Cuckoo).

September 2nd, 1907—Numerous in scrub at Rhine Villa.

April 2nd, 1909—Seen at Highercombe.

October 10th, 1909—Numerous at Wandilla Camp, Eyre's Peninsula. Obtained mature and immature specimens.

Have not yet obtained or heard of an egg of this Cuckoo being found in South Australia.

*Cinclosoma castanonotum* (Chestnut-backed Ground Thrush)—September 2nd, 1907. Observed a good many pairs of this species in scrub about Rhine Villa, and obtained two male specimens and found what we took to be a half-built nest; it was a freshly dug hole under a small bush, with a few leaves as a commencement. They are numerous in this part of the scrub.

*Cinclosoma punctatum* (Spotted Ground Thrush)—This bird is fairly numerous through the Mt. Lofty Hills District. Have taken eggs at Teatree Gully and Chain of Ponds. A set taken 30/11/1907 at Teatree Gully measured 1.3 x .98, 1.3 x .92, of a rich stone color, both eggs having very marked zone at large end, the spots being on and around the zone; small blotches.

*Cisticola exilis* (Grass Warbler)—Found the bird first at Baker's Lagoon, near Mannum, and again in October, 1907, on the swamp just above Mannum. I also found the nest, which was placed in some rushes about nine inches above ground. It was partly built of spiders' webs and green leaves, domed, with well-defined side entrance. We, unfortunately, shot the bird before finding the nest, and on looking at the nest again a fortnight later it had been deserted. There seemed to be a good few of these birds about.

*Neophema petrophila* (Rock Parrot)—10/10/1909, Kellidie Bay, Coffin's Bay, Eyre's Peninsula. Found this bird fairly numerous near the water, and it was nesting on Goat Island. Goat Island is of limestone formation, with a surface of shallow soil covered with grass and scrubby stuff. There is an abrupt cliff about six or eight feet all round the island, and the face is weather worn and broken. The birds were nesting in the hollows and holes in the cliffs and also on the surface, deep under the scrubby brushes, and in the crevices of some heaps of rock in the centre of the island, which is about 100 yards in length by 50 yards in breadth. The full clutch seemed to be four eggs; nests were found with from one to four eggs or young. The eggs rested on bare ground, and were of the usual parrot shape and white color, and measured .9 x .73 inches in average. Most of the nests contained young.

*Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae* (Blue Mountain Parrot)—Warunda Camp, Eyre's Peninsula, 10/10/1909. This bird was very numerous and was nesting freely in the spouts of the sugar gums in the Forest Reserve, but were difficult to get at, as they choose mostly end spouts of dead limbs, which were too rotten to take many risks with. The Purple-crowned Lorikeet was also nesting in a small colony in sugar gums near the camp.

*Collyriocincla rufiventris* (Rufous-vented Shrike Thrush)  
—Warunda Camp, Eyre's Peninsula, 10/10/1909. This bird is very numerous both at the camp and at Coffin's Bay and the Marble Ranges, at each of which locality I obtained specimens. The song of this bird and that of Harmonic Shrike Thrush are not the same, though very much alike and the difference difficult to explain, but to one accustomed to the latter bird the difference is distinct.

*Entomophila leucomelas* (Pied Honey-eater)—December, 1909. Clutch of two eggs taken at Stone Wall near Mannum; nest composed of grasses with a feather or two, and placed in a low bush. The eggs measured .92 x .65 in., and were elongated oval and, if anything, slightly constricted towards smaller end, ground color yellowish white, with sub-color markings very distinct. The season has been peculiar in that birds like *Epthianura tricolor*, *Halcyon pyrophygia*, and this species were found nesting at Mannum, whereas in usual years none of these put in an appearance.

*Nycticorax caledonicus* (Night Heron)—February 1st, 1910. At Teatree Swamps at back of Loveday Bay, near the Coorong, this bird was nesting. The young were almost ready to fly, so that December would be about the proper time to secure eggs. There was a big colony of them nesting quite low down in the teatrees in the swamp.

*Eopsaltria gularis* (Grey-breasted Shrike Robin)—Warunda Camp, Eyre's Peninsula, 10/10/1909. We found this species fairly common at foot of the Marble Range. A nest was placed on a horizontal limb of a sugar gum, in a fork about fifteen feet from the ground. Externally it was composed of grasses held together with cobweb and lined with dead leaves of native broom. It was loosely built, and outside of nest are some pendant pieces of bark hung on by cobweb. The nest is two inches in diameter inside and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. in depth. There are no feathers used in the nest. The clutch was two eggs, one of which was incubated. They are light olive green in color, faintly speckled at larger end with small pinkish brown spots, and measured .85 in length by .65 in breadth.

*Sittella chrysoptera* (Orange-winged Tree-runner)—October, 1887. Not uncommon in district (Teatree Gully); flies in mobs, is very restless, not remaining long in one tree, has a short, jerky flight, twittering whilst flying. Builds a beautiful nest in the fork of a sheoak. Nest is about two inches in diameter, cup-shaped, and rather deep. It is made of hair, fur, and feathers, matted with cobwebs and fluff from some of the

native plants. The outside of nest is covered with little, narrow strips of bark, set on perpendicularly, with bits of lichen stuck on here and there with some resinous substance. The eggs are three to the clutch, and have the small end very rounded; a greenish-ground color blotched with faint black all over, with another layer of much deeper black blotches all over, but principally towards the larger end. Nests are usually found from October to November.

*Melithreptus lunulatus* (Black-Capped Honey-eater)—August 16th, 1888. The nest was about six feet from ground, suspended by the edges in the leafy part of an overhanging gum branch. It was cup-shaped, two inches across by  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. deep, closely made of fine inner bark, dry grasses, and some cobwebs with no lining. The eggs, two in number, were flesh colored, spotted with light and dark reddish brown, especially at the larger end, forming a fairly well defined ring. These birds are numerous all over the district.

---