

The Nest and Eggs of *Diaphorillas Textilis Myal*

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This bird was first described by Mathews under the name of *D. textilis myal*, from two skins collected at Myall Creek, Cariewerels, Gawler Ranges. This is evidently a mistake for Cariewerloo, on which station there is a Myall Creek 22 miles west of Port Augusta. Later he made this bird a subspecies of his new species *D. inexpectatus*, and figures the bird under that name in his "Birds of Australia." Two birds are figured, and there is no indication in the letterpress as to which is which. In any case, the figures are poor, lack detail, and do not correspond with the description. North had two specimens of

this bird, collected by Dr. Chenery and myself in 1902 in the Gawler Ranges, before him when describing his *Amytis modesta*, and attributed them to that species, which they certainly are not. A few weeks ago I had an opportunity of comparing these two skins with the fine series of *Diaphorillas* in the Melbourne Museum, and found them to be almost identical with *D. giganturus*, though the tail of the Gawler Range bird is not quite so long, the throat is slightly lighter, and the bill is slightly lighter than the one ♂ specimen from East Murchison, Western Australia. The principal point of distinction is the label.

The Gawler Range bird cannot by any stretch of the imagination be regarded as other than a subspecies of *D. textilis*. The nest also allies it to *D. giganturus*, being an open cup, as described below. The nest was found by Mr. J. Neil McGilp on August 30th, 1923, near Wertigo Dam, about 50 miles south-south-west of Port Augusta. It was situated 9 inches from the ground in a saltbush, well away from the scrub. The shape was an open cup, with no sign of a hood or other covering. The base was of very fine dead twigs of saltbush, on which the nest proper was built of very fine dried old grasses of a grey colour, matching well with the stems of saltbush, and scantily lined with rabbit-fur. It was well concealed by an overhanging branch of the bush. Measurements—Height overall, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; cavity diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; depth, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The eggs were three in number and quite fresh. Short ovals in shape, surface smooth with a slight lustre. The ground colour of two of the eggs is a pale reddish-brown, thickly covered with spots and splashes of bright red. The third egg has a white ground colour, with markings of the same shape and colour as the other two. In all the eggs the spots are more thickly distributed at the larger end. Measurements—A, 2.30 cm. x 1.70 cm.; B, 2.25 cm. x 1.60 cm.; C, 2.20 cm. x 1.70 cm. One of the birds was seen, but not collected.
