

*SUTTON—Spotted Nightjar.**Eurostopodus guttatus*, Spotted Nightjar.

By J. Sutton.

Mr. D. K. James, of 35 Richmond Road, Westbourne Park, S.A., was good enough in November last to give me the photograph, which is here reproduced, of a bird of this species. He mentioned that whilst engaged in clearing virgin mallee scrub near Kongolia, about 10 miles east of Cambrai, the latter town is situated 46 miles in a direct line north-east of Adelaide, the bird was flushed from the nesting site as the motor truck in which he was riding approached very close; the wheel tracks can be seen on each side of the bird. The nest he described as a slight hollow in the ground devoid of any lining, and with the centre an inch deeper than the outside edge. The bird, when sitting, was well camouflaged by limestone and dry mallee sticks and bark, and would allow him to approach within a few feet before flying away, and although the bird appeared to be asleep it was impossible to catch it. The bird when squatted is rusty rufous and light grey in colour on the upper parts, with an inverted v-shaped white mark on the throat and sides of the neck. The colour of the egg he gave as blue with brown spots, but the general run of eggs when blown may be described as a light greenish stone colour with a few purplish brown spots. Mr. James stated that the bird made a low throaty sound like

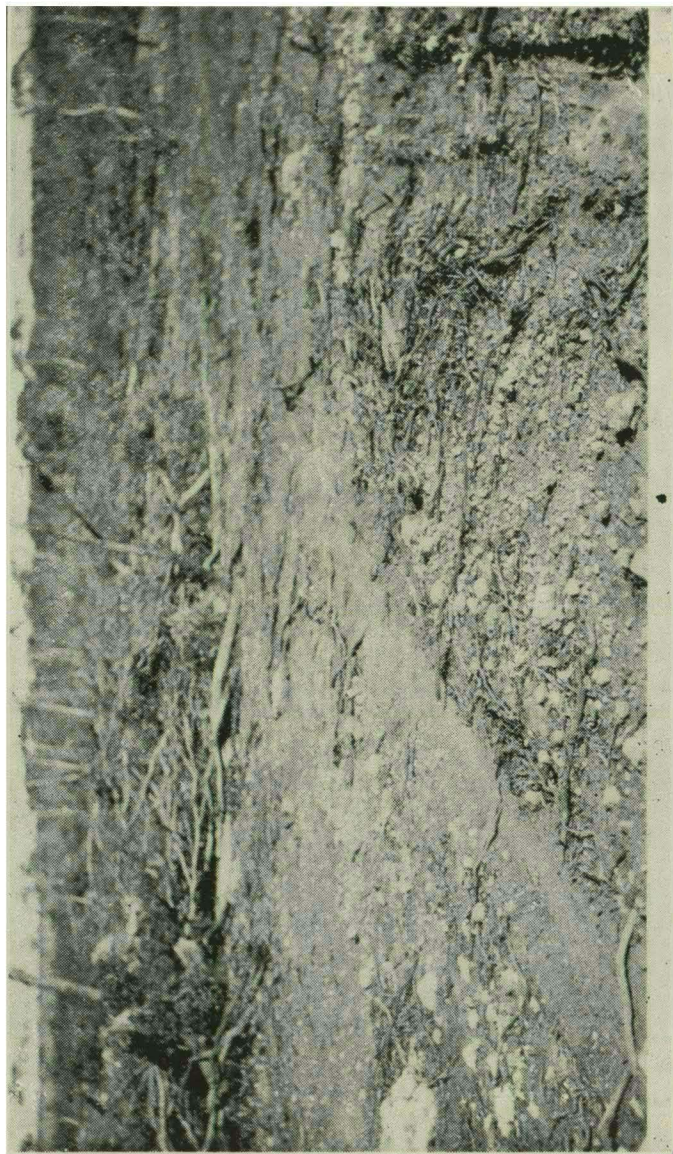


Plate XIV.

Spotted Nightjar. (*Eurostopodus guttatus*) on "nest."

"prrup-prrup-prrup," when he went near, but the usual call I have heard is "caw, caw, caw-caw-caw," "gobble," or "pop," repeated about twelve times—the first and second caws are uttered slowly then three "caws" quickly, followed immediately by "gobble," or "pop" about a dozen times, but this repetition is so quick that it is difficult to count the number. If you are near the bird the sound seems "gobble," but if it is some distance away the sound is like "pop." About twelve months ago Mr. James discovered another "nest" with an egg in similar conditions.

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