

ON THE NIDIFICATION OF *HETEROMYIAS CINEREIFRONS*, RAMSAY, AND *ORTHONYX SPALDINGI*,
RAMSAY.

BY A. J. NORTH, F.L.S.

The Trustees of the Australian Museum have recently received from their collectors, Messrs. Cairn and Grant, specimens of the nests and eggs of *Heteromyias cinereifrons*, and *Orthonyx spaldingi*, from North-eastern Queensland, which with the sanction of the Curator I am here permitted to describe.

HETEROMYIAS CINEREIFRONS, Ramsay. Ashy-fronted Flycatcher.

“*Win-dan*,” Aborigines of Cairns district.

During September and October of this year several nests of this species were obtained by Messrs. Cairn and Grant, in the scrubs of the Herberton tableland; in every instance they were found in the “Lawyer vines” (*Calamus* sp.), about four or five feet from the ground; several of these nests now before me have been built between the forked stems, or where several vines cross each other, in other instances they have been placed on the thin horizontal stems to which the nests are attached. The outside of the nest is formed of thin twigs bent into shape, wiry rootlets, skeletons of leaves, and the fibre of the “Lawyer vine;” the inside which is saucer-shaped, being neatly lined with finer materials, while the exterior portion of the nest is ornamented with mosses and lichens, which give it a pleasing appearance. Exterior diameter 4·5 inches, depth 4; internal diameter 2·75, depth 1·1. The eggs are two in number for a sitting and closely resemble in shape and colour large specimens of *Artamus superciliosus*, being of a dull buffy white ground colour, thickly covered, especially towards the larger end, with clouded markings of umber brown;

in some instances they are more clearly defined and boldly blotched, and have markings of deep bluish-grey appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. A set taken on the 18th of September measures as follows:—Length (A.) 1.05×0.75 inch; (B.) 1.07×0.77 .

ORTHONYX SPALDINGI, *Ramsay*. Spalding's Orthonyx.

“*Chowchilla*,” Aborigines of Cairns District.

This species has recently been met with rather freely dispersed through the dense brushes of the coastal range, chiefly in the neighbourhood of the Mulgrave and Russell Rivers, in North-eastern Queensland. Mr. Cairn who found several nests of this species, states they are usually built in the tangled roots of “Lawyer vines,” but not unfrequently on the top of a stag-horn fern, as high as twelve feet from the ground. The nest is a large bulky dome-shaped structure with an entrance on one side; it is composed of twigs, roots, and mosses, chiefly species of *Hypnum*, so loosely put together that it will not bear removal. Unlike its southern ally *O. spinicaudus*, it appears that only one egg is laid for a sitting. A nest found on the table land near Boar Pocket, on the 20th of June last, contained but one egg in an advanced state of incubation; others were found as late as the middle of August. The breeding season this year would appear to be from May till the end of September, young birds being procured in June, but as in other parts of Australia the breeding season of birds is greatly influenced by the rains.

The eggs which are pure white, vary from elongated to swollen ovals, some being equal in size at each end. Two average-sized specimens measure (A.) 1.45 inch \times 1, (B.) 1.38×1.1 .



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