

is the true naturalist's spirit, not in clumsily collecting skins or eggs and laying them by where few can see them, but in interpreting the birds and their ways in their own home.

Birds New for Australia.

NEW FRUIT-PIGEON.

MY friend Mr. E. M. Cornwall, Cairns, North Queensland, writes :—"I am sending you a skin of a very small Pigeon which I cannot identify. I shot it on the 21st May, 1905, in a big fig-tree while it was feeding with several more like itself, in company with the Fruit-Pigeons *Ptilopus superbis* and *P. swainsoni*."

The bird, which is a female, is undoubtedly new, for Australia at least. It most resembles the Tiny Fruit-Pigeon (*P. nanus*, Temminck), of New Guinea,* but is slightly larger. The new bird may be described as :—General colour, bronze or metallic green, the wing coverts and secondaries being edged with yellow; primaries, dark grey edged with yellowish white; tail, bronze-green; throat, greyish; the greenish feathers of the under surface slightly tipped with yellow, the abdomen being mottled with a yellowish-white patch; under tail coverts yellowish-white. Dimensions in inches :—Length, 7.5; wing, 4.75; tail, 2.5; bill, .5; tarsus, .6. Compare dimensions of *P. nanus* :—Length, 5.8; wing, 3.5; tail, 1.75; bill, .4; tarsus, .5.

It is just possible that on account of its arboreal habit, very small size, and plumage closely assimilating the colour of the foliage which it frequents, this new Pigeon has escaped the notice of other collectors. Doubtless, when the male has been discovered he will be found to possess a distinctive abdominal band, characteristic of this race of diminutive Fruit-Pigeons, several species of which inhabit the Papuan Region. Until the male be examined, I venture to suggest, as a provisional name, *Ptilopus minutus*, or the Small Green Fruit-Pigeon.—A. J. CAMPBELL.

WOOD-SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*, Linn).

The occurrence of this wanderer in Australia establishes an interesting record. Mr. E. G. Austin, of Booriyallock, Skipton, Victoria, shot a specimen on his estate recently.† I have examined the bird, which has been skilfully mounted by Mr. A. Coles, taxidermist. It is not surprising that the Wood-Sandpiper has occurred in Australia, seeing that the species has a very extensive range. According to Seebohm, "it has occurred in the Faroes, and may be regarded as a somewhat irregular

* "Birds of New Guinea" (Gould-Sharpe), vol. v., pl. 51.

† End of November, 1905. There was only one bird seen, which was on the edge of some fresh water.

visitor on spring and autumn migration to the British Islands, on very rare occasions remaining to breed. It is a summer visitor to the whole of Europe north of the valley of the Danube, and to Siberia, Turkestan, Mongolia, and the extreme north of China. It probably breeds as far north as land extends, as Middendorff found its nest in lat. 70° on the Taimyr Peninsula. It winters in the basin of the Mediterranean, and in suitable localities throughout Africa. In Asia it winters in Persia, Beloochistan, India, Ceylon, the Burma Peninsula, and the islands of the Malay Archipelago, but only passes through Japan and South China on migration."—A. MATTINGLEY.

The Scrub-Tit (*Acanthornis magna*).

By A. L. BUTLER, A.O.U.

(Read before the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club, 12th June, 1905.)

THIS rare bird is peculiar to Tasmania. I have always been deeply interested in it since the year 1875, when I first observed it in one of the gullies on the slopes of Mount Wellington. A note taken at that time was to this effect:—"Saw a new bird to-day; was not Brown-tail (*Acanthiza*) or Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis*); had white spots on wing, and light yellow underneath." From that time up to the present I have always closely watched this bird, spending many hours in so doing.

In 1881 (October) I first found the nest, which was placed about 4 feet from the ground in a wild currant tree, just on the edge of the scrub, near the old Huon road, and was of the following dimensions:—Height, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter, 8 inches; width, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; and entrance, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; and contained three young birds about four days old. In 1883 I met Mr. A. J. Campbell, the noted oologist, on one of his visits to Hobart, and at his request procured a specimen of this bird for him. My next entry is made in 1885, when, on the 15th October, I took a set of three eggs from a nest, also in a native currant, but this time in a gully near the Old Farm. From that time up to the present I have inspected in all 27 nests with either eggs or young, and the average measurements are about the same as I have already given, but the position of the nests varies much, according to the kind of scrub in which it is situated. I have found them as low as 3 inches from the ground, and as high as 9 feet in grass and ferns, and then again in the dead fronds of the tree fern. This latter is a favourite place, especially on the northern slopes of the mountain—that is, Glenorchy and Kangaroo Valley—where all but one that I have found in those localities have been so placed. The last nest I took was the exception, this being in the favourite native currant, and, with the eggs (two in number), is now in the possession of Mr. D. Le Souëf.

I have only shot two specimens of this bird, one of which I dissected, and found that the stomach contained parts of various



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