

Description of two New Nests and Eggs.

BY SID. WM. JACKSON, A.O.U., NEW SOUTH WALES.

ACANTHIZA TENUIROSTRIS, Zietz.

Nest.—An oblong structure, dome shaped, and resembling that of the *Maluri*, except that it is more loosely made and not nearly so compact. Length, 5 inches; width, nearly 3 inches; the opening is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, and is situated nearly at the top of the nest, the hood only covering two-thirds of the opening and body of the nest beneath. It is loosely constructed of thin strips of bark of a stringy nature, and portions of a soft plant, which are woven together and fastened with cobwebs. Warmly lined inside, especially at the bottom, with a white substance resembling short pieces of wool, but which is probably the down collected from flowering plants.

Nest was found suspended from the topmost twigs of a low samphire bush, near Lake Way,* Western Australia, on 26th August, 1909.

Eggs.—Three in number; ground colour white, with a very faint tinge of pink in them. Shell fine, but with very little gloss. Specimens *a* and *b* are well marked all over, but particularly at the larger ends, with very small spots of dull reddish-brown. Specimen *c* is almost devoid of markings, with the exception of very minute specks of dull reddish-brown, which are scattered all over the shell, and forming a very indistinct cap at the larger end. The eggs are swollen ovals in shape, and measure as follows:—(*a*) 0.57×0.43 , (*b*) 0.57×0.43 , (*c*) 0.57×0.44 inch.

AMYTORNIS GIGANTURA, Milligan.

Nest.—An open, cup-shaped structure, which in miniature somewhat resembles that of *Collyriocincla harmonica*. Width of nest over all, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; egg cavity, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth. Constructed of strips of bark and long portions of a soft white flowering plant. Lined with short, soft pieces of flat grass and plant-stems, also a quantity of soft white vegetable matter. The nest was placed about 20 inches from the ground in a dense salt-bush, which measured about 6 feet in circumference and about 3 feet in height. Taken at Lake Way, Western Australia, on 23rd August, 1909.

Eggs.—Three in number, ground colour a warm white or dull pink, beautifully marked all over with spots and blotches of very rich reddish-brown, which become confluent at the larger ends, where they form an irregular zone or cap. Here and there on each egg will be found a few markings of light slate, appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell.

* Lake Way is about 400 miles inland in an easterly direction from Geraldton which is the nearest point on the coast.

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Nest of Spur-winged Plover (*Lobivanellus lobatus*).

They are stout ovals in shape, the surface of the shell being very fine and glossy. The three eggs are very uniformly marked, and measure as follows :—(a) 0.85 x 0.67, (b) 0.89 x 0.67, (c) 0.85 x 0.66 inch.

Observation.—Writing to Mr. H. L. White on the new and interesting find, Mr. F. L. Whitlock states :—"To-day (23rd August, 1909) I planned to have a thorough search in the favourite place for the nest of this species. I picked up a stick and systematically beat the bushes and every tuft of spinifex. I had nearly gone through the most likely tract of ground when I spied what looked like the rim of a nest in a thick salt-bush. I parted the branches, and there was a fine open cup-shaped nest, with three handsome eggs, of a character totally new to me; they resembled large eggs of *Artamus venustus* or giant eggs of *Xerophila*, but the markings are more vinaceous. This was a puzzle. There was not a bird about whose eggs I thought I did not know. As for *Amytornis*, all the time I have been looking for a semi-domed structure or something akin to it; this nest was massive and cup-shaped. The only thing to do was to watch. I walked away, and was about to sit down, when I heard the alarm note of *Amytornis*, promptly replied to by the other partner; I knew what I had then found. However, the sitting bird would not go on, so I decided to finish my work in another locality, and then return, and, if necessary, spend the day in watching. I came back in about two hours' time, and, the ground being sandy, I came very stealthily up to the bush and peeped into the nest; there sat an *Amytornis*. Of course, the bird was off in an instant, but I saw sufficient to prove it to be the male bird of Milligan's *Amytornis gigantura*."

Description of a New *Acanthiza*.

By EDWIN ASHBY, BLACKWOOD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ACANTHIZA (GEOBASILEUS) FLAVIVENTRIS, sp. nov. (Plain-fronted Tit).

Adult.—General colour above buff-brown; lesser, median, and greater wing coverts drab-brown, centres broadly margined with buff; primaries drab, narrowly margined with yellow, becoming a mere line towards extremities, but tipped with buff; secondaries, outer broadly margined with yellow, inner with buff. Tail blackish-brown, inner web shading to drab at base; inner web narrowly edged with whitish-buff, the outer web edged with yellow, which broadens at the base. Two central feathers pale brown at tip, others with a large white spot near extremity on inner web, shading to buff at tip; upper tail coverts yellow, slightly shading to buff; lower rump buff. Lores and eyelids buffish-white. Head.—The whole upper portion of head, neck,



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