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"Birds of a feather."

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Nests and Eggs Not Previously Described.

BY H. L. WHITE, C.F.A.O.U., BELLTREES, N.S.W.

Atrichornis rufescens jacksoni (H. L. White).

Nest.—A dome-shaped structure, placed amongst ferns on the almost perpendicular bank of a creek; composed of dead leaves, small pieces of tree-fern, and well-bleached flat rush or scrub-grass (*Xerotes*), all very loosely put together. Outside diameter, 6 inches; height about the same; entrance at side very neat, roundish, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. Lined with a peculiar composition resembling very coarse cardboard, made apparently of soft decayed wood worked up when very wet and plastered over the inside of the nest; no other lining used.

Egg (infertile, found with newly-hatched chick) resembles closely those found by S. W. Jackson in the Dorrigo scrubs of New South Wales during 1898 and 1910, but rather more elongated, and may be described as a swollen oval, measuring, in inches, .97 x .68, as against .88 x .7, an average of the Dorrigo clutches. Ground colour pale pinkish-white, well marked with specks and irregular spots of brownish-red, the markings confined chiefly to the larger end, where they form a large, irregular zone. Surface of shell fine and slightly glossy.

Taken by S. W. Jackson, 27th October, 1920, on the Macpherson Range, S.E. Queensland, at an elevation of 3,000 feet above sea-level.

Pachycephala olivacea macphersonianus (H. L. White).

Nest.—A comparatively large cup-shaped structure (resembling that of the Harmonious Shrike-Thrush, *Collyriocincla harmonica*, and the Crested Bell-Bird, *Oreoica cristata*), compactly and neatly made of long, thin twigs, large and small dead leaves, green moss, and strips from decayed palm leaves; lined with soft yellowish fern-stems and dried roots of orchids. Breadth over all, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; egg cavity, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches x 2 inches. Placed 3 feet up in a spice-bush (*Helicia Youngiana*) overgrown with wire vines (*Rhipogonum Fawcettianum*).

Eggs.—Clutch, three, giving the following measurements in inches:—(a) 1.15 x .81, (b) 1.13 x .79, (c) 1.09 x .78. Ground colour pale yellowish-white, much darker about the larger end.

Very sparingly marked with rounded spots and blotches of different shades of umber and dark purplish-grey; markings confined, with few exceptions, to the larger end, where they form an irregular cap. Oval in shape, and much pointed at the smaller ends. Shell very fine, smooth, and glossy.

Taken by S. W. Jackson, 6th November, 1920, on the Macpherson Range, S.E. Queensland, at an elevation of 3,800 feet above sea-level.

***Pachycephala rufiventris maudeæ* (S. A. White).**

Nest.—That of a typical Thickhead or Whistler (*Pachycephala*); measures externally $3\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth; fragile structure, composed of dried rootlets and tendrils, with no lining other than fine rootlets; placed 12 feet up from the ground, in the fork of a tea-tree on large gum creek; female on nest; eggs visible from ground through bottom of nest.

Eggs.—Clutch, three eggs, swollen oval in shape; surface of shell rather fine and very glossy. Ground colour yellowish-brown, with small spots and blotches of darker brown and pale purplish-grey, chiefly confined to the larger end of each egg; they closely approach some very dark specimens of the Rufous-breasted Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*). They measure, in inches—(a) .87 x .64, (b) .83 x .63, (c) .87 x .63. Mr. M'Gilp states this clutch is of usual coloration, and two eggs appear to be the usual clutch, but three are now and again found.

Locality.—Collected by Mr. J. Neil M'Gilp at Moolawatana, near Lake Frome, South Australia, on 11th December, 1920. Female sat closely, and did not leave nest until the branch was shaken. The tea-tree is their favourite nesting-tree, and sometimes the nest is placed in a mistletoe in these trees; height from ground varies from 5 up to 20 feet. Male frequently feeds the female on the nest.

Further Notes on Rufous Scrub-Bird and Olive Thickhead in Queensland.

By H. L. WHITE, C.F.A.O.U., BELLTREES, N.S.W.

LAST season Mr. S. W. Jackson succeeded in securing additional specimens of both birds. Referring to my previous remarks on the Scrub-Bird (*Atrichornis r. jacksoni*) (*Emu*, xix., pp. 257, 258 and plate xlvii.), another female is similar to that figured except that the throat is slightly whiter, thus resembling more that of the male. Two immature birds accompanied her, which Mr. Jackson judged were about four weeks old. They were darker (dark shade of chestnut-brown) on the upper surface than the parent, while the under surface was more Verona brown or warm sepia, with a trace of rufous showing on the breast.

Another young specimen, about three weeks old, is similar in coloration to the four weeks birds, but has a shorter tail and no



Nest of Northern Olive Thickhead (*Pachycephala o. macphersonianus*).



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