

a larger species found in Western Australia, but practically less is known of it than of the Big Scrub bird. Surely Australian ornithologists have an interesting point to settle yet by bringing to scientific light the female *Atrichia*.

## DESCRIPTION OF SOME NORTH AUSTRALIAN BIRDS' EGGS.

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COLLYRIOCINCLA PALLIDIROSTRIS, Sharpe, Pale-headed Shrike-Thrush.

These birds have a beautiful clear note, like the other members of the same family, and are found in the north-eastern portion of Australia, but their exact limit is difficult to define. They frequent scrubby country or small open patches in the scrub, and the site they choose for their nest is generally on a thick bunch of mistle-toe or similar place. The structure is lightly built of stalks of grass and vine tendrils, and lined with fine, dark-coloured tendrils, and measures—internal depth,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches; external, 4 inches; internal breadth, 3 inches; external,  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The eggs are white, with markings of varying shades of burnt sienna scattered over the surface, but mostly over the larger end, especially on the apex; those under the surface are lilac. The markings vary in size on different eggs—some being few and large, and others small and numerous. The shell is slightly glossy, and they measure—(a) 1.12 x .80 inch, (b) 1.6 x .78 inch, (c) 1.10 x .80 inch. The nest and eggs were found near Cooktown, Queensland, on the 19th of November, 1899, three being the full clutch. This bird is lighter in colour than *C. brunnea*, and is easily distinguishable from it.

SERICORNIS FRONTALIS, Vig. and Hors. (*S. minimus*, Gld.), White-browed Scrub-Wren.

In the British Museum Catalogue this species is made synonymous with *S. frontalis*. As is well known, birds found in Northern Australia are generally smaller than those of the same kind found in the more southern portions of the continent, and this bird is probably a case in point. As will be noticed, its eggs are considerably smaller than those of *S. frontalis* taken in the Clarence River district of New South Wales; then also *S. frontalis* (*S. gularis*, Legge), found in the Kent Group of islands in Bass Straits is a large bird again, and its eggs correspondingly so. The northern variety, like the others, frequents scrubby country, and is generally to be seen on or near the



ground. One of their dome-shaped nests was found on 22nd October, 1899, in the Cooktown district, North Queensland, and was situated among a bunch of dead leaves in a small scrubby bush, about 2 feet from the ground; it was composed of leaves and rootlets, and lined with fine tendrils and a few feathers. The entrance was very small, being  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in diameter. The structure itself measured—internal depth, 3 inches; external,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches; internal breadth,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches; external, 3 inches. The eggs, three in number, are of a faint reddish brown, with light brown fleecy markings on the larger end, where they form a zone near the apex. There are no markings on the smaller end. They measure—(a) .70 x .51 inch, (b) .68 x .50 inch, (c) .74 x .52 inch.

The measurements of a clutch of *S. frontalis*, taken in the Clarence River district, New South Wales, are as follows:—(a) .75 x .55 inch, (b) .78 x .58 inch, (c) .77 x .59 inch; while a clutch of *S. frontalis* (*S. gularis*, Legge) taken in the Kent Group of islands by Mr. A. J. Campbell, measure—(a) .91 x .67 inch, (b) .90 x .65 inch, (c) .88 x .65 inch.

#### PACHYCEPHALA PENINSULÆ, Hartert, Cape York Thickhead.

These birds are found in the dense scrub-covered country of N.E. Australia, and are therefore often difficult to catch sight of, as they appear to dart through the thick undergrowth. Their nests are generally built in some thick-foliaged bush, the birds apparently choosing the densest they can find. One of them was found in the Bloomfield River district, North Queensland, on 9th October; it was an open cup-shaped structure, compactly built of grass-stalks and lined with fine tendrils, and measures—internal depth, 2 inches; external,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; internal breadth,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches; external,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The shell is slightly glossy, and white in colour, with a few small markings of dark brown, which at the larger end form a zone. There the markings are also larger; those under the surface are lilac. The eggs measure—(a) .84 x .61 inch, (b) .85 x .60 inch.

#### TRICHOGLOSSUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ, sub-sp. SEPTENTRIONALIS, Robinson.

I found the eggs of this bird in the Bloomfield River district on 6th November. The birds themselves were exceedingly plentiful, and their screeching notes generally to be heard, either when the birds were feeding or on the wing. The eggs were laid in a hollow spout at a considerable distance from the ground, and were lying on the decomposed wood at the bottom; they were two in number and slightly nest-stained. The shell is a dull creamy-white, with no gloss, and they measure—(a) 1 x .90 inch, (b), 1.1 x .86 inch.



1900. "Description of some North Australian birds' eggs." *The Victorian Naturalist* 17, 145–146.

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