

NOTES ON THE OOLOGY OF LORD HOWE ISLAND.

OUR knowledge of the nesting and eggs of the Lord Howe Island birds is very limited, and until an excursion, fitted out by the Trustees of the Australian Museum, in September, 1887, very little had been done towards recording authentic information relative to the breeding season, or the eggs of the birds found there. Of the sixty species recorded in Dr. Ramsay's "List of birds found in Lord Howe Island," only eleven are strictly peculiar, and of only one of these is the nest and eggs known; much remains therefore to be done, and it is to be hoped that any one favourably situated for acquiring further information, will not fail to make notes on this interesting subject.

HALCYON VAGANS, *Lesson.*

Mr. E. H. Saunders, who has lately returned from Lord Howe Island, states that he found this bird breeding freely during the month of November, 1887, in the hollow limbs of trees. The eggs, five in number, for a sitting, are rounded in form, and of a beautiful pearly-white tint. The dimensions of a set are as follows:—Length, (A) 1.14 x 0.92 inch (this specimen is somewhat sharply pointed at one end; (B) 1.08 x 0.91 inch; (C) 1.12 x 0.91 inch; (D) 1.1 x 0.9 inch; (E) 1.08 x 0.92 inch.

APLONIS FUSCUS, *Gould.*

According to Mr. Saunders, the nidification of this bird is entirely different from that of the allied genus *Calornis*, of the Australian continent, resorting to the hollow branches of trees to construct their nests; several were found with young birds, but only one containing eggs. In every instance these nests were built of dried grasses, and placed in a hollow at the end of a branch. Eggs, four in number, for a sitting, varying somewhat in form even in the same set; two eggs of this set are swollen ovals, being thickest at the centre, and slightly pointed towards each end, the other two are long ovals, slightly tapering at one end only; in colour they are of a pale bluish green, freckled with markings of a reddish and wood-brown tint, equally disposed over the surface of the shell, some of the markings are very indistinct. Length, (A) 1.97 x 0.78 inch; (B) 1.06 x 0.77 inch (thick ovals; (C) 1.14 x 0.76 inch; (D) 1.12 x 0.75 inch.

CHALCOPHAPS CHRYSOCHLORA, *Wagler.*

The nest of this bird is composed of a few thin twigs placed crosswise on the horizontal branch of a tree, not far from the ground. The eggs are two in number, oval in form, of a light creamy-white colour, and give the average measurement of of 1.47 inch x 0.8 inch.