

Mountains. The specimen is an adult male in full plumage. Several years ago I searched for this bird in the Richmond and Clarence Rivers scrubs, but found it not, although *P. gouldii*, Gray, was by no means rare. There is no difference in the size of the New South Wales bird and those from Port Denison, the wings and tail being in both cases respectively from 2·7 to 2·8.

*Pycnoptilus floccosus*, Gould, is this season (1889) particularly plentiful in the valleys of the Blue Mountains; I noticed also flocks of *Estrellda bella* and *E. bichenovii*, which had been liberated some six years ago and have taken kindly to their new home.

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NOTES ON THE NIDIFICATION OF *MERULA VINITINCTA*,  
GOULD, AND *OCYDROMUS SYLVESTRIS*, SCLATER,  
FROM LORD HOWE ISLAND.

BY A. J. NORTH.

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MR. J. R. ICELY, the Visiting Magistrate of Lord Howe Island, has lately returned to Sydney, bringing with him a number of specimens acquired on behalf of the Trustees of the Australian Museum, among which are the nest and eggs of *Merula vinitincta*, and the eggs of *Ocydromus sylvestris*, and from which the following descriptions are taken:—

*MERULA VINITINCTA*, Gould. Vinous-tinted Blackbird.

“*Doctor Bird*.” Inhabitants of Lord Howe Island.

A nest of this species, taken during the month of October, 1889, is elliptical in form, with a small cup-shaped depression in the top, and is composed throughout of strips of palm leaves and fibre of one of the species of *Kentia* peculiar to the Island, together with skeletons of leaves, but without any special lining, it measures exteriorly seven inches in diameter by five inches in depth; internally, three inches in depth by two and a half inches across. Mr. Icelly states that the nest was built in the branches of a shrub not far from the ground. The eggs are two in number for a sitting, inclining to elongated ovals in form, slightly pointed at one end, of a pale greenish-grey ground colour, with freckles, dots, and longitudinal markings of reddish-brown dispersed over the entire surface of the shell, in some places a few nearly obsolete blotches of purplish-grey appear. Length (A) 1·15 x 0·77 inch; (B) 1·12 x 0·77 inch.\* Plate i., fig. 5.

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\* P.L.S., N.S.W., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv., Dec., 1889.

OCYDROMUS SYLVESTRIS, *Slater*. The Wood-hen.

“*Wood-hen.*” Inhabitants of Lord Howe Island.

This bird is found breeding in the most rugged and inaccessible portions of the Island, such as the Erskine Valley, between Mount Ledgbird and Mount Gower. Here the rough character of the country, consisting of huge boulders of granite almost hidden in a dense and luxuriant mass of sub-tropical vegetation, affords it a secure retreat. The nest in question, was found last October at the head of the Erskine Valley, and consisted merely of a depression in a thick débris of fallen leaves, under the shelter of a low bush. The eggs four in number vary in shape from ovals to lengthened ovals, being slightly pointed at one end, and are of a dull white, with minute dots and large irregular shaped markings of light chestnut-red more or less scattered over the surface of the shell, obsolete markings of the same colour predominating towards the larger end, they are not unlike very large specimens of *Hypotenidia philippensis* (*Rallus pectoralis*), but the markings are paler and not so well defined. Length (A) 1·9 x 1·32 inch; (B) 1·88 x 1·36 inch; (C) 1·95 x 1·3 inch; (D) 2 inches x 1·32 inch. Mr. Icely remarks that this is the first time that any of the present inhabitants of the Island have seen the eggs of the Wood-hen, or had heard of them being taken.\* Plate i., fig. 3.

NOTES ON THE NIDIFICATION OF *HETEROMYIAS CINEREIFRONS* AND *ORTHONYX SPALDINGI*, RAMSAY, FROM THE CAIRNS DISTRICT, NORTH-EASTERN QUEENSLAND; AND ON *STERNULA SINENSIS*, GMELIN, FROM THE TWEED RIVER, NEW SOUTH WALES.

By A. J. NORTH.

*HETEROMYIAS CINEREIFRONS*, *Ramsay*. Ashy-fronted Flycatcher.

“*W'in-dan.*” Aborigines of Cairns District.

During September and October of 1889, several nests of this species were obtained by Messrs. Cairn and Grant, in the scrubs of the Herberton tableland, in every instance they were found in the “lawyer vines” (a species of *Calamus*), about four or

\* P.L.S., N.S.W., 2nd Ser., Vol. iv., Dec., 1889.