

III.—ON THE NIDIFICATION OF *MEGALOPREPIA
MAGNIFICA*, THE MAGNIFICENT FRUIT PIGEON.

Columbia magnifica, Temm., Trans. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 125 (1821).

Carpophaga magnifica, Gould, Bds. Austr. v. pl. 58 (1848).

Megaloprepia magnifica, Salvad., Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. xxi.
p. 167 (1893).

The Magnificent Fruit Pigeon is freely dispersed throughout the rich coastal brushes of Eastern Australia, from the neighbourhood of Cairns in North-eastern Queensland to Berry in New South Wales. In the latter colony it is far more frequently met with in that rich belt of luxurious vegetation lying between the Tweed and Bellinger Rivers, than it is in the humid valleys and mountain ranges of the south coastal district. At Cairns it overlaps the closely allied, but decidedly smaller species *M. assimilis*, which ranges northward from that locality to Cape York.

Although *M. magnifica* is plentifully distributed throughout these brushes nothing has hitherto been recorded of its nidification. For an opportunity of examining a nest and egg of this species I am indebted to Mr. George Savidge, a most enthusiastic oologist, who has lately found this fine Pigeon breeding on the Upper Clarence. Mr. Savidge has also forwarded me a skin of the female shot at the nest, together with the following notes relative to procuring the nest and egg:—

“Having been told by some timber-drawers that they had discovered three nests of *Megaloprepia magnifica* at Pine Scrub, Oaky Creek, Upper Clarence, each with a single egg, and upon which the birds were sitting, I determined to pay a visit to these scrubs to search for the nests. Accompanied by a friend, Mr. Thos. Woods, and an aboriginal called Freddy, we started at daylight on the morning of November 8th, 1896, and arrived at our destination, twenty-five miles distant a little after ten. Several nests were seen but they contained neither eggs or young, and after a long search we decided upon going further into the scrub. The peculiar call of *M. magnifica* could be heard on all sides, and at last after searching for several hours we saw one fly from a tree about twenty-five yards in advance. Upon nearing the tree we discovered the nest, and the egg could be plainly seen in it. Wishing to obtain the bird we sat down for some time, but eventually decided to move lower down the creek into closer concealment, as I thought the bird might be watching us and would not return. After waiting a quarter of an hour we observed the Pigeon fly