

where it was obtained by the members of "The Horn Scientific Expedition." Why this small flock should have wandered so far south-east instead of pursuing the usual course of migration to the north-west it is difficult to conjecture, unless the birds followed in the track of an abundant rainfall so common to Central Australia, with its rapidly accompanying growth and profusion of rich grasses, thereby causing a plentiful food supply. There is no doubt whatever that reaching the western border of New South Wales the excessively dry season now being experienced there has driven this small nomadic flock from the withering and burnt-up grass lands to the cooler districts near the coast. This is only a repetition of the effects of last year's drought when many birds whose habitat is the dry inland districts of the Colony, were obtained near Sydney, among which may be mentioned *Falco hypoleucos*, a typical Central Australian species.

Roughly estimated, the nearest recorded locality in Central Australia in which *Emblema picta* has been obtained, is 1,300 miles in a direct line from Campbelltown, in New South Wales, where the present specimens were procured.

---

## II.—ON A CURIOUS NESTING-SITE OF *ANTHUS AUSTRALIS*.

(Plate iv.)

The Trustees of the Australian Museum are indebted to Mr. A. M. N. Rose, for a nest of the Australian Pipit or common "Ground Lark," *Anthus australis*, placed in a very curious position. It is built inside an old rusty preserve tin, measuring four inches and a half in length by three inches and a half in diameter. The entrance to the nest is narrowed to two inches, by a small platform of dried grasses which protrudes out of the mouth of the tin. This nest was found on the 24th of November, 1896, by Mr. A. Payten at Campbelltown in the same paddock as he shot the specimens of *Emblema picta*, and contained two slightly incubated eggs. The tin, which has the lid still attached, but bent at a right angle, was lying exposed on the ground, without shelter or concealment of any kind, beyond a few short blades of dried grass. The eggs are of the usual type, a greyish-white ground colour thickly freckled all over with pale brown markings; length (A) 0·8 x 0·67 inch; (B) 0·84 x 0·67 inch. As will be seen on reference to the accompanying plate, it is a curious site for a bird to select which builds an open cup-shaped nest concealed only by an overhanging tuft of grass, or the surrounding herbage.