

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST OF THE GUTTATED BOWER-
BIRD, *CHLAMYDODERA GUTTATA*, GOULD.

By ALFRED J. NORTH, C.M.B.O.U., C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist.

(Plate xvi.)

The Trustees of the Australian Museum have received from Mr. C. Ernest Cowle, through Mr. G. A. Keartland, a nest of *Chlamydodera guttata*. Up to the present time only two nests of this species have been recorded, and both were also found in Central Australia. One discovered by Mr. Cowle on the 28th October, 1898, in a mulga growing in a valley south of Mareena Bluff, contained minute fragments of eggshell and dried up yolk, a young Bower-bird just able to fly being caught in the same tree. Another nest with two fresh eggs was found by Mr. James F. Field during the first week in February, 1899, near Alice Springs Telegraph Station. Both of these nests are referred to in "Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania"¹. The present nest, which contained three young ones, was found by one of Mr. Cowle's black boys near Illamurta about the 18th January, 1903. It is a nearly flat, oval structure, built at the junction of a horizontal forked stem of a *Capparis spinosa*, the foundation being irregularly formed of long, thin twigs and thorny stems interlaced together, and the inside, which is slightly cupped, is lined with finer twigs, and some curly tendrils and dried grass stems. With the exception of a few straggling twigs, it measures externally twelve inches in length along the fork, eight inches in breadth, and four inches in depth, the inner cup averaging four inches in diameter by one inch and a quarter in depth. Relative to this nest, which is figured on Plate xvi., Mr. Cowle, writing from Illamurta, Central Australia, under date 21st January, 1903, has kindly supplied me with the following notes:—"One of the black boys told me a few days ago there was a Bower-bird's nest, with three young in it, about a mile from here, and I have just come back from having a look at it. The nest was built in a "Native Orange" (*Capparis spinosa*), the fruit of which is a favourite food of these

¹ North—Aus. Mus. Spec. Cat., i., 2, 1902, p.p. 50, 51.