

which had one egg the previous day, had two, while a second gull's nest had one egg. Another white-fronted tern's nest was found on the side of the rock with one egg. The following day two more gulls' nests had an egg each. On November 5, ten nests had an egg each, and on November 7, eleven had one egg and four had two. On this day three eggs were picked up in the colony, sucked of their contents. On November 10, 21 nests had one egg and eight two eggs. A count showed that there were 203 birds in the colony. The next day, the position was: One egg, 20 nests; two eggs, 12 nests. At this point my own observations ended.

On November 17, my wife, who remained on the island, states that there were 39 nests with an egg each and 39 with two eggs each, while two nests had three eggs each. One of the tern's eggs was found on the beach with a fully-formed chick inside. On November 18 a harrier (*Circus approximans*) was worrying the colony and many eggs were found to be broken. The gulls left the colony in a crowd when the harrier flew over, and appeared to make no attempt to drive it away. Later, according to Mr. A. S. Wilkinson, custodian of the island, heavy seas washed away the nests on the lower portion of the rock and only one nest, which was built higher up the hillside near the rock and under vegetation, produced fully-grown chicks.

AUSTRALIAN RAVEN AS A STRAGGLER.

By K. A. Hindwood, Sydney, N.S.W.

The occurrence of what seems to have been either a crow (*Corvus cecillae*) or a raven (*C. coronoides*) from Australia, in the Mokohinau Group, New Zealand ("New Zealand Bird Notes," April, 1947, p. 70)* is of considerable interest as it indicates how far land birds may sometimes stray from their normal range. Some years ago a so-called "crow" made its appearance on Lord Howe Island. It was first observed on September 18, 1941, and remained on the Island for some two years, living largely on the eggs of sea-birds. On October 3, 1943, it was captured in a rabbit trap. The head of the bird was sent to me and was later examined by Norman Favaloro, R.A.O.U., who has a wide knowledge of the differences between the crow and the raven. In his opinion the head was that of the Australian raven, probably a female. Lord Howe Island lies some 300 miles east of Port Macquarie on the New South Wales coast.

The following extract from a letter written by Max Nicholls to Captain J. D. McComish gives details of the capture of the raven:—"I found a wild duck's nest in the swamp at Mosely Park. It had eleven eggs in it, but Mr. Crow came along and sucked the lot. I declared war and made a dummy nest with fowl feathers, put four eggs in it, and set a rabbit trap alongside. For a few days the bird only looked at the nest: at last he came to the eggs and trod on the trap to which a line six feet long was attached, so Mr. Crow got into the water and was drowned. He had white rings (irides) around the eyes. I chopped his head off and preserved it. I counted forty-seven "wide awake" (sooty tern) eggs under one tree that he used to frequent."—October 12, 1943.

* See page 106 of this issue.