at Oxford, however, revealed that far more nests survived in the town (50%) than in the neighbouring Wytham woods (14%) where predation by both bird and mammal predators was heavier (Snow, 1958).

Thrushes and Blackbirds in New Zealand face fewer species of predators than those in Britain; but this cuts both ways, and the predators may have fewer alternative foods. The main predators at St. Arnaud were stoats which probably hunt for nests by sight. This would make the nests in open matagouri especially vulnerable, although there was no indication that the few Thrush nests found high in beech trees fared any better. Certainly some nests must have more success, unless adult mortality is very low, for both species are abundant on the area and appear to be maintaining their numbers.

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SHORT NOTE

THE EGG OF THE LONG-TAILED CUCKOO

It is widely believed (Oliver, 1955, and Cunningham, N.Z.B.N. 3, 176, 1949) that Fulton was the first to describe the egg of the Long-tailed Cuckoo *(Eudynamis taitensis)* (Trans. N.Z. Inst., xxxvi, 1904). It is therefore of some interest that a rough description of the egg was given by Edward P. Ramsay in 1865 (On the Nests and Eggs of some New Zealand Birds, Ibis New Series April 1865, 1.2: 155). The following is a direct quotation from this.

The "Mocker" *(Anthornis melanura)* is frequently the foster parent of the Long-tailed Cuckoo *(Eudynamis taitensis,* G. R. Gray, *loc.cit.* p. 231) ("List of the Birds of New Zealand," contained in a former volume of the 'Ibis' (1862, pp. 214-253)). Of this latter bird, the eggs which Mr. Huntley sends — one from the nest of *Anthornis melanura,* and another from that of the Fan-tail Fly-catcher *(Rhipidura flabellifera)* — are of a pale yellowish salmon-colour, freckled indistinctly with marks of a deeper hue: they are 10 lines long by 7½ lines broad.

— J. M. CUNNINGHAM