twigs are always presented outwards, by which arrangement not the slightest obstruction is offered to the passage of the birds. The interest of this curious bower is much enhanced by the manner in which it is decorated with the most gaily-coloured articles that can be collected, such as the blue tail-feathers of the Rose-hill and Pennantian Parrakeets, bleached bones, the shells of snails, &c.; some of the feathers are inserted among the twigs, while others with the bones and shells are strewed about near the entrances. The propensity of these birds to fly off with any attractive object is so well known to the natives, that they always search the runs for any small missing article that may have been accidentally dropped in the brush. I myself once found at the entrance of one of them a small neatly-worked stone tomahawk, of an inch and a half in length, together with some slips of blue cotton rags, which the birds had doubtless picked up at a deserted encampment of the natives.

"It has been clearly ascertained that these curious bowers are merely sporting-places in which the sexes meet, and the males display their finery, and exhibit many remarkable actions; and so inherent is this habit, that the living examples, which have from time to time been sent to this country, continue it even in captivity. Those belonging to the Zoological Society have constructed their bowers, decorated

and kept them in repair, for several successive years.

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"In a letter received from the late F. Strange, he says—'My aviary is now tenanted by a pair of Satin-birds, which for the last two months have been constantly engaged in constructing bowers. Both sexes assist in their erection, but the male is the principal workman. At times the male will chase the female all over the aviary, then go to the bower, pick up a gay feather or a large leaf, utter a curious kind of note, set all his feathers erect, run round the bower, and become so excited that his eyes appear ready to start from his head, and he continues opening first one wing and then the other, uttering a low whistling note, and, like the domestic Cock, seems to be picking up something from the ground, until at last the female goes gently towards him, when, after two turns round her, he suddenly makes a dash, and the scene ends,"

Mr. A. J. North writes to me:-"I forward you a photograph that may be of use to you in the preparation of your 'Monograph of the Ptilonorhynchidæ, &c.' It is that of a perfect bower of Ptilonorhynchus violaceus in the possession of the Trustees of the Australian Museum. It was found on the ground in the scrub near the Jerulan Caves, N. S. Wales, in December last, by Mr. J. C. Wiburd, and is built on a



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platform of sticks and twigs about three inches in thickness, and is composed entirely of thin twigs slightly arched, some of which meet or cross each other at the top. Near the tront of it, on the right side of the bower, is a tail-feather of Platycercus elegans. It measures over all 2 feet in length, 1 foot in height, and 10 inches in breadth; internally 8 inches in height by 4 inches in breadth. Scattered about the entrance are