

Another and smaller species of *Furnarius* (*F. cunicularius*) resembles the oven-bird in the general reddish tint of its plumage, in a peculiar shrill reiterated cry, and in an odd manner of running by starts. From its affinity the Spaniards call it *Casarita* (or little housebuilder), although its nidification is quite different. The *Casarita* builds its nest at the bottom of a narrow cylindrical hole, which is said to extend horizontally to nearly six feet under ground. Several of the country people told me, that, when boys, they had attempted to dig out the nest, but had scarcely ever succeeded in getting to the end of the passage. The bird chooses any low bank of firm sandy soil by the side of a road or stream. Here (at Bahia Blanca) the walls round the houses are built of hardened mud; and I noticed that one, which inclosed a courtyard where I lodged, was bored through by round holes in a score of places. On asking the owner the cause of this, he bitterly complained of the little *casarita*, several of which I afterward observed at work. It is rather curious to find how incapable these birds must be of acquiring any notion of thickness, for although they were constantly flitting over the low wall, they continued vainly to bore through it, thinking it an excellent bank for their nests. I do not doubt that each bird, as often as it came to daylight on the opposite side, was greatly surprised at the marvellous fact.

I have already mentioned nearly all the mammalia common in this country. Of armadillos three species occur; namely, the *Dasyopus minutus* or *pichy*, the *D. villosus* or *peludo*, and the *apar*. The first extends ten degrees further south than any other kind: a fourth species, the *Mulita*, does not come as far south as Bahia Blanca. The four species have nearly similar habits; the *peludo*, however, is nocturnal, while the others wander by day over the open plains, feeding on beetles, larvæ, roots, and even small snakes. The *apar*, commonly called *mataco*, is remarkable by having only three movable bands; the rest of its tessellated covering being nearly inflexible. It has the power of rolling itself into a perfect sphere, like one kind of English woodlouse. In this