

From the table it will be observed that in Area III. (*d* and *e*) the percentage of birds is small. This is a favourite rookery, open ground and easily raided, while in areas with scrub and sword-grass—notably Area IV. (*c*)—the percentage of birds is high, owing to the difficulty of roots and crooked burrows impeding eggers' hooks.

In view of the serious depletion of the Cape rookeries, it might be recommended (with the sanction of the part owner of the land) that that portion of the Cape headland enclosed by Mr. Cleeland's most southern barbed-wire paddock be strictly prohibited next season from both egging and birding. This area contains approximately 75 acres, and includes the favourite pigface (*Mesembrianthemum*) rookery, which is most easily raided, and, in consequence, the one we found most depleted.

Possibly the public would not object to any moderate restriction in favour of the birds, *their own sport and profit*. The birds require a rest. Egging has been carried on uninterruptedly, more or less, for the last 40 years. Another and a better recommendation would be to prohibit egging and birding every alternate year until the birds reassert their former numbers.

Notes on a Small Collection of Bird-Skins from the Northern Territory.

BY A. J. CAMPBELL AND J. A. KERSHAW, Ms. R.A.O.U.

THROUGH the courtesy of Mr. Atlee Hunt, C.M.G., Secretary Department of External Affairs, there has been placed at the disposal of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union a small collection of bird-skins for examination, and, for publication, the whole of Mr. G. F. Hill's ornithological field notes obtained during the Barclay Exploring Expedition through the Northern Territory. The Council of the Union deputed us to examine the birds, while Mr. Hill's field notes appear *in extenso*, beginning at p. 238.

The collection of skins (a few being in spirits) is small but interesting. There are 65 specimens, representing about 36 species. *Xerophila castaneiventris*, Milligan (Chestnut-bellied Whiteface) is new for the Northern Territory, likewise *Malurus coronatus*, Gould (Purple-crowned Wren). A female only of the latter was obtained, which appears darker in general colouration than Gould's figure ("Birds of Australia," Suppl., pl. 20).

The bird of most interest is a Grass-Wren new to science, which we have named *Amytornis rufa*. The following is its description:—

Adult Male.—Upper surface rich rufous, each feather from head to mantle, including upper wing coverts, having a white central stripe; line of black from gape, extending backward about half an inch; ear coverts dark, striped with white; throat whitish; rest of under surface buffy, darkest on flanks, which

are light rufous; wings and tail blackish-brown, some of the feathers of both edged with rufous. Iris light brown, tarsus horn-coloured, bill greyish (Hill).

Dimensions in inches :—Length $6\frac{1}{2}$, wing $2\frac{6}{16}$, tail $3\frac{1}{2}$, tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$, culmen $\frac{7}{16}$.

Type.—At National Museum, Melbourne.

Subjoined is a full list of the collection :—

TABULATED STATEMENT OF BIRDS COLLECTED IN NORTHERN
TERRITORY.

No.	Name.	Date.	Locality.	Field Notes (Hill's).*
—	<i>Podiceps poliocephalus</i> , ♂	11/6/11	Arragoona Water- hole, Lander Creek, at C. III.	Gape yellow, iris yellow, feet green- ish-horn, bill yel- lowish-horn.
54	<i>Anas gibberifrons</i> , ♀	24/11/11	Borroloola.	
—	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i> , ♂	17/9/11	Macarthur River.	Iris orange, feet green, bill green.
—	<i>Ibis molucca</i> , ♀	20/9/11	Carrington Land- ing, Macarthur R.	Iris umber, feet purple, bill black.
30a	<i>Sterna anæstha</i> , ♀	20/10/11	Observation Island, Gulf of Carpen- taria.	Iris umber, feet black, bill black.
—	<i>Charadrius</i> ♀			
—	" <i>Charadrius</i> " <i>dominicus</i> , ♀	26/9/11	Borroloola. "	Iris dark " brown, feet greyish-yel- low, bill black; t.l. 233 mm., w. 140, t. 42, b. 22, tail 70.
—	<i>Haliaetus leucogaster</i> (sex ?)	22/10/11	Near mouth of Macarthur R., Gulf of Carpen- taria.	Iris greyish-brown.
22	<i>Falco lunulatus</i> , ♀	27/5/11	Meyer's Camp, near Haast's Bluff, Macdonnell Ranges, N.T.	
50	<i>Corvus coronoides</i> (sex ?)	21/11/11	Borroloola.	
5	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> , ♂	15/4/11	Alice Springs.	Iris brown, feet black, bill black.
58	" " ♀	3/2/12	Five-Mile Bar, Mac- arthur River.	Iris brown, feet blackish; bill slate-blue, black tips; t.l. 393, w. 238, t. 51, b. 54, tail 135.
53	" " ♀	24/11/11	Borroloola.	
—	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> (?) ♂	28/1/12	Five-Mile Bar, Mac- arthur River.	Iris sienna, feet black; bill white, black tips; t.l. 427, w. 277, t. 56, b. 64, tail 140.

* Where details are not supplied in this column see body of Mr. Hill's article.

No.	Name.	Date.	Locality.	Field Notes (Hill's).*
—	<i>Cracticus nigrigularis</i> , ♀	28/1/12	Five-Mile Bar, Mac- arthur River.	
—	" " ♂	28/1/12	" "	
—	<i>Trichoglossus rubri- torques</i> , ♂	17/9/11	Borrooloola.	Iris orange, feet grey, bill red.
—	" " ♂	15/9/11	" "	" "
—	" " ♀	16/9/11	" "	Iris reddish-brown, feet grey, bill red.
3	<i>Lophophaps leucogaster</i> , ♂	13/4/11	Alice Springs.	
16	" " ♀	23/5/11	Near Haast's Bluff, Macdonnell Ranges.	
6	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i> , ♀	16/4/11	Alice Springs.	
59	<i>Eudynamis cyano- cephala</i> , ♂	3/2/12	Five-Mile Bar, Mac- arthur River.	Iris red, feet grey, bill grey.
—	<i>Oriolus affinis</i> , ♂	30/9/11	Borrooloola.	Iris red, feet dark grey, bill brown- ish-horn.
—	<i>Chlamydodera nuchalis</i> , ♂	17/9/11	Macarthur River.	Iris umber, feet greenish - horn, bill horn.
—	<i>Philemon sordidus</i> , ♂	30/9/11	Borrooloola.	Iris umber, feet dark grey, bill black.
—	" " ♂	30/9/11	" "	" "
1	<i>Climacteris superciliosus</i> , ♀	12/4/11	Undoolya Station, Alice Springs.	
2	" " (? ♂)	12/4/11	Emily Gap, Alice Springs.	
8	<i>Amytornis textilis</i> , ♀	1/5/11	Simpson's Gap, Macdonnell Ranges; rocky slopes about 2,500 feet; spini- fex grass.	Iris light umber, feet light horn, bill light horn; t.l. 165, w. 59, t. 24, b. 12, tail 83.
7	" " ♂	1/5/11	" "	Iris light umber, feet light horn, bill light horn; t.l. 177, w. 59, t. 24, b. 13, tail 85.
52	<i>Amytornis rufa</i> (type), ♂	3/7/11	Lat. 19° 27", about 160 miles north of N.T. Survey Camp C. IV.	Iris light brown, feet horn, bill greyish; t.l. 158, w. 57, t. 22, b. —, tail 90.
37	" " (co-type)	2/6/11	Lander Creek. (Spirit specimen; some of notes obliterated. — J. A. K.)	" "
27	<i>Artamus melanops</i> , ♀	4/6/11	Commonwealth N.T. Survey Camp C. 2.	

* Where details are not supplied in this column see body of Mr. Hill's article.

No.	Name.	Date.	Locality.	Field Notes (Hill's).*
20	<i>Petræca picata</i> , ♀	26/5/11	Near Haast's Bluff, Macdonnell Ranges.	
—	<i>Pæcilodryas cervini- ventris</i> (? ♂)	2/10/11	2 miles N.N.W. of Borrooloola.	
—	" " ♀	2/10/11	2 miles N. of Borro- loola. Several bones show signs of injury in youth	
24	<i>Glycyphila albifrons</i> , ♂	3/6/11	Commonwealth Camp C. 2.	
23	" " ♂	3/6/11	" "	
9	<i>Ptilotis heartlandi</i> , ♂	18/5/11	Haast's Bluff, Mac- donnell Ranges. (One pair only seen at foot of quartzite range.)	
25	" " ♀	3/6/11	Commonwealth Camp C. 2.	
—	" " ♀	—	(From spirits; no particulars. — J. A. K.)	
—	<i>Ptilotis sonora</i> , ♂	26/5/11	Near Haast's Bluff, Macdonnell Ranges.	Iris dark umber, feet grey, bill black, gape yel- low.
4	<i>Ephthianura aurifrons</i> , ♀	14/4/11	Alice Springs.	Iris red-brown, feet dark horn; bill light horn at base, black tips.
21	<i>Xerophila castanei- ventris</i> , ♀	27/5/11	Meyer's Camp, near Haast's Bluff, Macdonnell Ranges.	
30	<i>Smicrornis flavescens</i> , ♀	12/6/11	N.T. Survey Camp C. III., Lander Creek.	Iris white, feet dark horn, bill dark horn.
10	<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i> , (♂ ?)	19/5/11	Mt. Francis, Mac- donnell Ranges.	
—	<i>Pardalotus</i> , sp., ♀	—	(No label; out of spirits; poor specimen. — J. A. K.)	
—	<i>Miraфра horsfieldi</i>	27/2/12	Borrooloola. (Spirit specimen. — J. A. K.)	
—	" "	—	(No label; spirit specimen. — J. A. K.)	
—	" "	—	" "	
—	<i>Malurus assimilis</i> , ♂	16/2/12	Sandstone ranges 10 miles S. of Borrooloola.	

* Where details are not supplied in this column see body of Mr. Hill's article.

No.	Name.	Date.	Locality.	Field Notes (Hill's).*
34	<i>Malurus assimilis</i> , ♂	4/7/11	179 miles N. of N.T. Survey Camp C. IV.	
—	„ „ ♀	16/2/12	Sandstone ranges 10 miles S. of Borrooloola.	
29	<i>Malurus</i> , ? sp. (im- mature), ♂	12/6/11	N.T. Survey Camp C. III., Lander Creek.	
26	<i>Malurus</i> , ? sp. (im- mature), ♂	4/6/11	N.T. Survey Camp C. 2.	
—	<i>Malurus coronatus</i>	—	(No label; out of spirits.—J. A. K.)	
19	<i>Emblema picta</i> , ♂	24/5/11	Near Haast's Bluff, Macdonnell Ranges.	
17	„ „ ♂	23/5/11	„ „	
13	„ „ ♀	21/5/11	Haast's Bluff.	
18	„ „ ♀	24/5/11	„ „	

* Where details are not supplied in this column see body of Mr. Hill's article.

Stray Feathers.

White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater (*Lalage tricolor*).—About the middle of last November I received from Mr. Reg. Slater, of Kelso, West Tamar, a bird which he had shot, and which was new to him, I quickly identified it as a male of the above species, and of particular interest because it was but the second bird to my knowledge taken in the island. Although prior to it being obtained there had not been any heavy gales, without a doubt it had been blown across from the mainland.—FRANK M. LITTLER. Launceston, 11/2/13.

* * *

Ewing Tit (*Acanthiza ewingi*).—I was much interested in reading the account of the birds observed during the recent trip of the Union to Cape Barren and Flinders Islands. A statement with reference to Ewing's Tit somewhat surprised me. I refer to the sentence—"Like Tasmania, Flinders Island abounds with this Tit." I have a very fair knowledge of the ornithology of Tasmania, and must refute the statement that *A. ewingi* "abounds." If the specific name *ewingi* be replaced by *diemenensis*, then the latter bird certainly does "abound." I should much like to know whether a slip was made in the report, as far as Flinders Island is concerned, or whether the *Acanthiza* said to "abound" was definitely identified as *A. ewingi*.—FRANK M. LITTLER. Launceston, 11/2/13.



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