

species. Full particulars will be found in the various works quoted above.

The two eggs figured measure respectively $1.27 \times .89$ and $1.25 \times .91$ inches.

VI.—*Descriptions of Two new Species and a new Genus of Australian Birds.* By ALFRED J. NORTH, C.M.Z.S., C.M.B.O.U., Ornithologist to the Australian Museum, Sydney*.

DURING the preparation of the Appendix to the 'Nests and Eggs of Birds found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania,' I discovered, in the Australian Museum, specimens of two apparently undescribed, or rather unnamed, species. The skins of both were procured by the late Mr. Alexander Morton in February 1879 at Port Essington, in the Northern Territory of South Australia.

+ NEOSITTA MORTONI, sp. n.

Adult male. Like the adult male of *Neositta leucoptera* Gould, but the black on the forehead extends down to the base of the bill; the mantle and back are of a darker shade of brown and more broadly streaked with black; only the chin, throat, and centre of the fore-neck are white, the remainder of the under surface being brownish white with darker brown centres or tips to some of the feathers on the sides of the breast and abdomen; "bill yellow, black at the tip; legs and feet bright yellow; iris yellow" (*Morton*). Total length 4.3 inches; wing 3.3; tail 1.5; bill 0.5; tarsus 0.68.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but having the sides of the head, the cheeks, ear-coverts, chin, and upper throat also black.

Hab. Port Essington, Northern Territory of South Australia.

* By permission of the Trustees of the Australian Museum.

Types. In the Australian Museum, Sydney.

Remarks.—I have named this species after its discoverer, the late Mr. Alexander Morton, who in 1879 was collecting at Port Essington and other parts of the Northern Territory on behalf of the Trustees of the Australian Museum. Gould, in his 'Birds of Australia,' in describing *Sittella leucoptera*, remarks:—"The sexes differ from each other in the markings of the head; the male has the summit only black," and figures both sexes with the entire under surface white and unstreaked. In the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum' * Dr. H. Gadow describes the adult of *Sittella leucoptera* as having the "frontal and orbital region and lores white; under parts white, without streaks as in *S. pileata*." The type was procured by the late Benjamin Bynoe, Esq., on the north-west coast of Australia, and the descriptions of Gould and Dr. Gadow agree with similar specimens collected by the late Mr. T. H. Bowyer-Bower and Mr. E. J. Cairns at Derby, North-Western Australia, and by the late Mr. A. S. Macgillivray at Cloncurry, Northern Queensland.

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ALCYONE RAMSAYI, sp. n.

Adult male. Like the adult male of *Alcyone pusilla* Temminck, but having the upper parts and sides of the breast rich bright blue instead of ultramarine; the outer webs of the inner primaries are distinctly shaded with green; there is a larger extent of blue on the sides of the breast and it nearly meets in the centre, while the white under tail-coverts are slightly tipped with blue. Total length 4·2 inches; wing 2·1; tail 1; bill 1; tarsus 0·32.

Hab. Port Essington, Northern Territory of South Australia.

Type. In the Australian Museum, Sydney.

Remarks.—I have named this species after Dr. E. P. Ramsay, formerly Curator of the Australian Museum, who has fully described the same specimen, and pointed out its

* Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. viii. p. 363 (1883).

differences from *Alcyone pusilla*, in his 'Catalogue of the Australian Birds in the Australian Museum' *.

I wish also to point out a new genus of Australian birds, which I propose to call *Trichodere*.

When Gould characterized *Ptilotis cockerelli* in the 'Annals & Magazine of Natural History' in 1869, he remarked :—"Although I have placed this beautiful new species in the genus *Ptilotis*, I am by no means certain that I am correct in so doing, for the bird possesses characters which ally it to at least three genera, namely *Stigmatops*, *Meliphaga*, and *Ptilotis*, while it possesses characters peculiar to itself to demand a distinct generic appellation."

There are specimens of this bird in the Australian Museum obtained by the late Mr. J. A. Thorpe, who was with Cockerell at Cape York in 1867-8. Recently Dr. W. Macgillivray, of Broken Hill, South-western New South Wales, has forwarded to me a nest and eggs of this species, together with the skins of the birds shot therefrom. They were procured by his collector, Mr. W. McLennan, near the Jardine River, Cape York Peninsula. Mr. McLennan states that this bird, in habits, notes, and nidification (nesting within a few feet of the ground), is a *Glycyphila*. The nest, however, a very scanty, wiry cup-shaped structure, is totally unlike those of the Australian members of this genus, which are thick-walled and compactly built, and of a dome-shape. Moreover, as Gould has pointed out, this bird "possesses characters peculiar to itself to demand a distinct generic appellation." While differing in minor characters from *Glycyphila*, *Meliornis*, and *Ptilotis*, it may be readily distinguished from these and every other genus of the family Meliphagidæ, by the hair-like appearance of the sides of the feathers on the throat and fore-neck. I therefore purpose to distinguish it under the generic name of

Type.

Trichodere *Ptilotis cockerelli*.

Range. Cape York Peninsula, Northern Queensland.

* Cat. Birds Austr. Mus. pt. iv. pp. 22-23 (1894).



North, Alfred J. 1912. "Descriptions of two new species, and a new genus of Australian birds." *Ibis* 6, 118–120.

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