

drinking milk holds the small vessel containing it between its fore-paws, lapping the milk as a kitten is observed to do. It is evident, from the fondness of this animal for sweets, that, when the *Eucalypti* are in flower, it subsists upon the honey which the blossoms yield in very large quantities (this honey is in such abundance as to afford subsistence to honey-eating parrots and other birds, as well as to these animals, and also to myriads of insects of various species). When these have disappeared, it lives upon the nuts and young foliage, and also upon insects. It drinks frequently, and will take water, but evinces a decided preference for and thrives best upon milk. I found that it would sometimes eat the young flower buds of the *Eucalyptus*, and was also fond of succulent fruit, such as apricots. Although the formation of its teeth would indicate a mixed diet, yet it never, in a state of captivity, has as yet attempted to eat animal food when given to it.

It left Sydney, N. S. Wales, on the 14th of March 1859 by the overland route, arrived at Southampton on the 27th of May, and was safely deposited in the Gardens of the Society in Regent's Park on the 28th of May, in excellent health and condition, and much grown since it left N. S. Wales.

3. NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN CUCKOOS. BY DR. GEORGE BENNETT, F.Z.S.

The Bronze-winged Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*) very frequently, but it appears not invariably, deposits its egg in the nest of the Fan-tailed Flycatcher (*Rhipidura albiscapa*). I bring before the Society a sketch of a Fan-tailed Flycatcher feeding the young of that species of Cuckoo, from specimens captured at Ryde, near Sydney, and now preserved in the Australian Museum, from which the drawing was made. This Fan-tailed Flycatcher was shot in the act of feeding a young bird in its nest, which, when examined, was found to be the young of the Shining Cuckoo (*C. lucidus*),—the Golden or Bronze Cuckoo of the colonists. The nestling was full-fledged, brown with black markings. It was ludicrous to observe this large bird filling up the entire nest with its corpulent, well-fed body, and receiving the sustenance intended for several young *Rhipiduræ*. We could imagine underneath the nest the skeletons of the former tenants sacrificed to the rearing of this parasitical Cuckoo.

On the morning of the 25th of February, 1859, Mr. Alfred Denison pointed out to me on the lawn in the garden of Government House among the flower-beds a male Purple Warbler (*Malurus cyaneus*) of glowing colours, perched upon a rose bush, and the female in its pale-brown plumage. They were both actively engaged, hopping about and wagging their tails (which they carry generally in an elevated position), in attending to the wants of a young bird much larger than themselves. This was found to be the

young of the *Cuculus inornatus*, having the speckled breast and greyish-coloured back of the immature age of that species. It had been brought up in fine condition by the old birds, which appeared, judging by their actions, very proud, and apparently took the greatest care, of their parasitical charge, doubtless regarding its size with great satisfaction as an improved breed of Little Warblers.

4. ON THE FISH CALLED GLYPHISODON BIOCELLATUS.

By DR. GEORGE BENNETT, F.Z.S.

(Pisces, Pl. IX.)

The following notes on the *Glyphisodon biocellatus*, together with an accurate drawing from life, were given to me by Mr. G. F. Angas for the purpose of being brought before the Zoological Society. This interesting and elegant little fish we at first supposed to be a new species; but on my arrival in England I found it was the *G. biocellatus* of Cuvier. As, however, the description of that eminent naturalist has evidently been made from specimens preserved in spirits, his account, as far as regards colour, cannot be entirely depended upon; and, as the drawing gives the accuracy of colour and the brilliant hues of the fish when seen alive and swimming about the aquarium, it will form an interesting addition to our more accurate knowledge of Australian fishes. Although the fish itself is not at present readily captured even at Sydney, yet I hope that before long it may be brought to Europe, to adorn the aquaria of this country.

GLYPHISODON BIOCELLATUS, Cuv. (Pl. IX. fig. 1.)

"This brilliant and elegant little fish is found in the pools amongst rocks at low spring tides, both on the outer coast and in several localities inside the harbour of Port Jackson. The first time I met with it was amongst the rocks in a pool at Coodgee Bay, about four miles from Sydney. The extreme brilliancy of the colours, gold and azure, as the little creatures dart in and out amongst the cavities of the rocks, reminds one of jewels flashing in the sunlight. They are remarkably shy, and on the slightest noise or the shadow of a person approaching the pool, they dart in and conceal themselves under the ledges and in the holes of the rocks; hence they are very difficult to catch. They generally make their appearance on the coast about November, and remain till May; during the winter months I have looked for them in vain. The usual size varies from 1 to 2 inches in length. The one figured is of the largest dimensions that has come under my notice; so that it is probable that 4 inches is the largest size they acquire.

"In the aquarium they are most exquisite objects. Last summer I only succeeded with every care in keeping them alive in a well-established tank for a week or ten days. At the present moment



Bennett, George. 1859. "3. Notes on Australian Cuckoos." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 27, 221–222.

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