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ON THE

FAUNA OF TASMANIA.

THE following remarks suggested themselves to the writer, after examination of a magnificent series of specimens of Natural History, collected in Tasmania by Mr. George Masters, assistant curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney, who visited Tasmania about a year ago, on behalf of the Trustees of that institution.

It will be observed that, excepting some of the Whales, specimens of all the Mammals known to exist in the island were brought together, not only their skins but also a fine series of skeletons, and young from the pouch, besides a large number of skulls, proving the existence of another species of Thylacine.

The following is a list of the Mammals collected :--

PLACENTALIA,

Producing their young in a perfect state and having no pouch or skin-fold for their protection :---

- 1. Canis dingo The Dingo (now extinct).
- 2. Arctocephalus lobatus The Cowled Seal.
- 3. Stenorhynchus leptonyx..... Sea Leopard
- 5. Scotophilus microdon...... Small-toothed Bat.
- 6. Nyctophilus unicolor Long-eared Bat.
- 7. Hydromys chrysogaster..... Golden-bellied Beaver Rat.
- 8. Mus tasmaniensis (Kr.,) a new species of land-rat discovered by Mr. George Masters, on the banks of the Ouse River. Except this rat, all the animals mentioned are also found in Victoria and New South Wales.

IMPLACENTALIA.

Producing their young in a very imperfect state and having a pouch or skin-fold for their protection.

Section I.-Marsupialia.

WOMBAT FAMILY.

Phascolomys wombat...... The Tasmanian Wombat.

KANGAROO FAMILY.

Halmaturus bennettii	Bennett's Kangaroo.
Halmaturus billardieri	Tasmanian Wallaby.
Macropus major	Great or Common Kangaroo.
Bettongia cuniculus	Tasmanian Bettong
Hypsiprymnus apicalis	Tasmanian Rat-Kangaroo.

BANDICOOT FAMILY.

Perameles gunnii Gunn's Perameles. Perameles obesula

PHALANGER FAMILY.

Phalangista fuliginosa	Black or Sooty Opossum.
Phalangista vulpina	
Phalangista viverrina	
Dromicia gliriformis	Thick-tailed Dromicia.

DASYURE FAMILY.

Antechinus swainsonii	Swainson's Antechinus.
Dasyurus viverrinus	Common Dasyure or Native-Cat.
Dasyurus maculatus	Spotted-tailed Dasyure or Tiger-Cat.
Sarcophilus ursinus	Tasmanian Devil,) (fossil in N.S.
Thylacinus cynocephalus	Tasmanian Tiger, J Wales.)

Section II.—Monotremata.

Ornithorhynchus anatinus... Duck-billed Platypus. Echidna setosa Hairy Echidna.

A second species of Thylacine recently obtained by Mr. Masters, and which I have described in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London as *Thylacinus breviceps*, must be added to this list.

This is a smaller animal with a shorter head, and much larger teeth than the *T. cynocephalus*, and was well known to many of the old residents of Van Diemen's Land who distinguished the two kinds, so Mr. Masters assures me, by the popularnames of Grey-hound and Bull-dog Tigers.

Peculiar to the island are the following mammals :-

The Tasmanian Wombat. Bennett's Kangaroo. The Tasmanian Rat Kangaroo Gunn's Bandicoot. The Sooty Phalanger. Thick-tailed Dromicia. The Tasmanian " Devil" The Two " Tigers" ; and The Hairy Echidna or Porcupine Anteater.

With the exception of the "Devil" and "Tigers" all have closely allied representatives on the mainland. A colder climate always modifies species more or less, and we find the Mammals of Tasmania generally more robust, of larger size, and provided with thicker and darker fur, than those inhabiting New Holland. In the structure, however, of the skull and teeth, but little difference (except in size), is observable in Tasmanian specimens when compared with continental ones. Comparing the fauna of Tasmania with that of the Australian mainland, we arrive at the following result

The Dingo is extinct,—the Seals and Whales are the same as on our own coast. The insect fauna of the island not being very rich, there are but few insect-feeding bats, three species only are known to our twenty or more *Cheiroptera*. For similar reasons (the absence of indigenous fruits) no Flyingfoxes occur, though if these marauders once found out the richness of Tasmanian plantations, they would soon wing their way across the Straits.

The peculiar Australian Rodent, the Water-rat, or Beaverrat, is represented by a single species to five on the mainland. Some four or five and twenty other rats and mice are known to inhabit Australia, and only one kind Tasmania. The marsupial order is richer, but here again many species common to our south coast are missing. There are but three *Halmaturi*, while some forty species inhabit the continent.

Our ten or twelve "Kangaroo-Rats" and "Bettongs," have two representatives in Tasmania, both of which, curious to say, resemble in a most remarkable degree two West Australian species, so much so, that the one can only be distinguished from the other by a close comparison of their skeletons.

One would naturally conclude that a mountainous island like Tasmania, would be the very paradise of "Rock-Wallabies," but none are found there. The absence of the "Koala," or Native Bear, and of all the species of "Flying Phalangers," common in Victoria, is also unaccountable, the more so as the allied "Phalangers," better known as "Brush and Ring-tail Opossums," which subsist on similar food and live in the same forests, thrive well, and attain a great size in that Island.

The small marsupial insectivora allied to the genera *Podabrus* and *Antechinus*, are represented in the latter by a single species, though probably a second kind exists, as I received a new form from one of the islands of Bass's Straits, not long ago, which is perhaps also found in Tasmania.

The predominance of the large carnivora over all other animals, is most likely the cause of so limited a number of species; it is highly probable that many more kinds of Kangaroos once existed, and that they have been exterminated by the ferocious "Tigers" and "Devils" still plentiful in some of the wild districts; if so, their remains will tell whenever the bone-caverns are explored.

The monotremous section of the *Implacentalia* is represented as in Australia by the well known Platypus, and by an Echidna or Ant-eater which appears to differ from our own in nothing but the shorter spines and more hairy fur.

The birds observed amount to one hundred and sixty-two species as follows :---

ORDER-RAPTORES.

FAMILY FALCONIDÆ.

Aquila audax	Eagle Hawk.
Ichthyiaëtus leucogaster	White-bellied Sea Eagle.
Pandion leucocephalus	White-headed Osprey.
Falco melanogenys	Blacked-cheeked Falcon.
Falco lunulatus	White-fronted Falcon.
Ieracidea berigora	Brown Hawk.
Astur novæ hollandiæ	New Holland Goshawk.
Astur approximans	Australian Goshawk.
Accipiter torquatus	Collared Sparrowhawk.
Circus assimilis	Allied Harrier.

FAMILY STRIGIDÆ.

Strix castanops	Chestnut-faced owl.
Athene maculata	Spotted Owl.

ORDER-INSESSORES.

FAMILY CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

Ægotheles novæ-hollandiæ	Little Morepork.
Podargus cuvieri	Morepork.

FAMILY HIRUNDINIDÆ.

Acanthylis caudacuta	Spine-tailed Swallow.
Hirundo frontalis	Welcome Swallow.
Collocalia arborea	Tree Swallow.

FAMILY ALCEDINIDÆ.

Alcyone diemenensis Tasmanian Kingfisher.

FAMILY ARTAMIDÆ.

Artamus sordidus...... Wood Swallow.

FAMILY AMPELIDÆ.

Pardalotus punctatus	Diamond-bird.
Pardalotus affinis	Allied Diamond-bird.
Pardalotus quadragintus	Forty Spotted Pardolote.

FAMILY LANIADÆ.

Strepera fuliginosa	Sooty Crow-Shrike.
Strepera arguta	Hill Crow-Shrike.
Gymnorhina organicum	Tasmanian Crow-Shrike.
Cracticus cinereus	Cinereous Crow-shrike.

FAMILY CAMPEPHAGINÆ.

Graucalus parvirostris	Tasmanian Graucalus.
Pachycephala graucalus	Grey-tailed Thickhead.
Pachycephala olivacea	Native Thrush.
Colluricincla selbii	Whistling Dick.

FAMILY MUSCICAPIDÆ.

FAMILY SAXICOLIDÆ.

Erythrodryas rhodinogaster	Pink-breasted Wood Robin
Petroica multicolor	Scarlet-breasted Robin.
Petroica phænicea	Flame-breasted Robin
Petroica fusca	Dusky Robin.

FAMILY MALURIDÆ.

Malurus longicaudus	Blue Wren.
Stipiturus malachurus	Emu Wren.
Sericornis humilis	Sombre Sericornis.
Acanthiza diemenensis	Tasmanian Acanthiza.
Acanthiza magna	Great Acanthiza.
Acanthiza chryssorrhæa	Yellow-rumped Acanthiza.
Calamanthus fuliginosus	Striated Calamanthus.

FAMILY MOTACILLIDÆ.

Anthus australis	Australian Pipit.
Sphenæacus gramineus	Tawny Grass-bird.

FAMILY FRINGILLIDÆ.

Estrelda bella..... Fire-tail.

FAMILY MERULIDÆ.

Cinclosoma punctata	Spotted Ground Thrush.
Oreocincla lunulata	Mountain Thrush.

FAMILY CORVIDÆ.

Corvus australis..... White-eyed Crow.

FAMILY MELIPHAGIDÆ.

Meliphaga novæ hollandiæ	New Holland Honey-eater.
Meliphaga australasiana	Tasmanian Honey-eater.
Glyciphila fulvifrons	Fulvus-fronted Honey-eater.
Ptilotis flavigula	Yellow-throated Honey-eater.
Anthochæra inauris	Wattle-bird.
Anthochæra mellivora	Brush Wattle-bird
Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris	Cobbler's Awl.
	Strong-billed Honey-eater, or Cherry-picker.
Melithreptus melanocephalus	Black-headed Honey-eater.
Myzantha garrula	Miner.
Zosterops cærulescens	Grey-backed Zosterops.
FAMILY CU	CULIDÆ.
Cuculus inornatus	Plain Cuckoo.

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Cuculus cineraceus	Grey Cuckoo.
Chrysococcyx lucidus	Bronze Cuckoo.

FAMILY PSITTACIDÆ.

Cacatua galerita	Common Cockatoo.
Calyptorhynchus xanthonotus	Black Cockatoo.
Callocephalon galeatum	Gang Gang Cockatoo.
Platycercus flaviventris	Green Parrott.
Platycercus eximius	Rose Hill Parrakeet or Rosella
Euphema chrysostoma	Blue-banded Grass-Parrakeet.
Euphema aurantia	Orange bellied Grass-Parrakeet
Pezoporus formosus	Swamp Parrakeet.
Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrakeet.
Trichoglossus swainsonii	Blue Mountain Parrakeet.
Trichoglossus concinnus	Musk Parrakeet.
Trichogolossus pussilus	Small Parrakeet.

ORDER-RASORES.

FAMILY COLUMBIDÆ.

Phaps chalcoptera	Common Bronze-wing.	
Phaps elegans		
FAMILY TURNICIDÆ.		
Turnix varius	Painted Quail.	
FAMILY PERDICIDÆ.		
Coturnix pectoralis	Pectoral Quail, Stubble Quail.	
Synoicus australis	Brown Quail.	
Synoicus diemenensis		

ORDER-GRALLATORES.

FAMILY STRUTHIONIDÆ.

Dromaius novæ hollandiæ {Emu, extinct; no specimens having been observed for thirty years.

FAMILY CHARADRIADÆ.

Hæmatopus longirostris	White-breasted Oyster-catcher
Hæmatopus fuliginosus	Black Oyster catcher.
Sarciaphorus pectoralis	Black-breasted Plover.
Squatarola helvetica	Grey Plover, or Sand Piper.
Charadrius orientalis	Golden Plover.
Hiaticula monacha	Hooded Dottrel.
Hiaticula ruficapilla	Red-capped Dottrel.
Hiaticula inornata	Allied Dottrel.
Hiaticula bicincta	Double-banded Dottrel.

FAMILY RECURVIROSTRIDÆ.

Recurvirostra rubricollis	Red-necked Avocet.
Limosa uropygialis	Barred-rumped Godwit.

FAMILY TRINGIDÆ.

Schæniclus australis	Marsh Tringa.
Schæniclus subtorquatus	Curlew Sandpiper.
Schæniclus albescens	Little Sandpiper.
Strepselas interpres	Turnstone.

FAMILY SCOLOPACIDÆ.

Gallinago australis New Holland Snipe.

FAMILY TANTALIDÆ.

Numenius australis Australian Curlew.

FAMILY ARDEIDÆ.

Ardea novæ-hollandiæ	Blue crane.
Botaurus australis	Australian Bittern.

FAMILY RALLIDÆ.

Porphyrio melanotus	Red bill.
Tribonyx mortierii	
Rallus lewinii	
Rallus pectoralis	
Porzana fluminea	Spotted Water Crake.
Porzana palustris	Little Water Crake.
Porzana immaculata	Little Swamp Hen

ORDER-NATATORES.

FAMILY ANATIDÆ.

Cygnus atratus	Black Swan.
Cereopsis novæ-hollandiæ	Cape Barren Goose.
Casarca tadornoides	Mountain Duck.
Anas superciliosa	Black Duck.
Anas punctata	Teal.
Spatula rhynchotis	Shoveller.
Malarcorhynchus membranaceus	Pink-eyed Duck.
Nyroca australis	White-winged Duck.
Biziura lobata	Musk Duck.

FAMILY LARIDÆ.

Larus pacificus	Pacific Gull.
Xema jamesonii	Jameson's Gull.
Lestris cattarractes	
Sylochelidon strenuus	Caspian Tern.
Thalasseus poliocercus	Bass's Straits Tern.
Sterna gracilis	Graceful Tern.
Sternula nereis	

FAMILY PROCELLARIDÆ.

Diomedea exulans	Wandering Albatros.
Diomedea cauta	Shy Albatros.
Diomedea culminata	Culminated Albatros.
Diomedea chlororhynchos	Yellow-nosed Albatros.
Diomedea melanophrys	Black-eyebrowed Albatros.
Diomedea fuliginosa	Sooty Albatros.
Procellaria gigantea	Giant Petrel.
Procellaria conspicillata	Spectacled Petrel.
Procellaria hasitata	Great Grey Petrel.
Procellaria macroptera	Great Winged Petrel.
Procellaria atlantica	Atlantic Petrel.
Procellaria solanderii	Solander's Petrel.
Procellaria leucocephala	White-headed Petrel.
Procellaria mollis	Soft-plumaged Petrel.
Procellaria leucoptera	White-winged Petrel.
Procellaria cookii	Cook's Petrel.
Procellaria cærulea	Blue Petrel.
Procellaria glacialoïdes	Silvery-grey Petrel.
Puffinus brevicaudatus	Short-tailed Petrel.
Daption capensis	Cape Pigeon.

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Prion turtur	Whale Bird.
Prion ariel	Fairy Whale Bird.
Prion banksii	Bank's Whale Bird.
Prion vittatus	Broad-billed Whale Bird.
Thalassidroma nereis	Grey-backed Storm Petrel.
Thalassidroma wilsonii	Wilson's Storm Petrel.
Thalassidroma melanogaster	Black-bellied Storm Petrel.
Thalassidroma leucogaster	White-bellied Storm Petrel.
Puffinuria urinatrix	Diving Petrel.

FAMILY PELILICANIDÆ.

Pelecanus conspicillatus	Australian Pelican.
Phalacrocorax novæ-hollandiæ	Australian Cormorant.
Phalacrocorax leucogaster	White-breasted Cormorant.
Phalacrocorax melanoleucus	Little Cormorant.
Sula australis	Australian Gannet.

FAMILY PODICIPIDÆ.

Podiceps australis	Diver.
Podiceps poliocephalus	Grey-headed Diver.
Podiceps gularis	Black-throated Diver.

FAMILY SPHENISCIDÆ.

Eudyptes chrysocome	Crested Penguin.
Spheniscus minor	Little Penguin.
Spheniscus undina	Fairy Penguin.

Of the above list, forty-three are roaming sea birds, only twenty-six kinds are peculiar to the island, and six of these are very doubtful species, so that we cannot put down more than twenty birds, so limited in their habitat.

The most interesting of them are the large Gill-bird Anthochæra inauris; the Tasmanian Parrakeet, Platycercus flaviventris; the large Quail, Synoicus dimenensis; and the great Water-hen, Tribonyx mortierii.

The reptiles, as might be expected from a cold climate, are few in number. I do not think that Tasmania furnishes more than two or three species to the Australian fauna. The well known *Hinulia whiteii*, the peculiar *Omolepida casuarinæ*, a *Grammatophora*, two small species of *Hinuliæ*, and a *Cyclodus* (*Cyclodus nigroluteus*), allied to our "Sleeping Lizard," are all the saurians known to exist there.

No tortoise inhabits the Tasmanian streams. Snakes abound, but the number of species is limited to two highly venomous kinds, and a small one, venomous but not dangerous. Not a single innocuous snake has as yet been discovered.

All the snakes belong to the peculiar Australian genus *Hoplocephalus*, and are local varieties of continental forms. They go under different names in Tasmania however, such as "Black Snake," "Carpet Snake," and "Diamond Snake."

The first two are varieties of our "Brown-banded Snake," *Hoplocephalus curtus*, and named "Black Snake" if of a dark color; and "Carpet Snake," if light, with the cross-bands visible. The Museum is indebted to Mr. Masters for a fine series of both, and having taken thirty-five young (some black, and some with visible cross-bands) from the same mother, the identity of both is sufficiently proved.

The term "Carpet Snake" is not well chosen, and leads to frequent mistakes here and in Tasmania, as our own "Carpet Snake" (*Morelia variegata*), belongs to the Python tribe and is not venemous.

The second dangerous snake is *Hoplocephalus superbus*, the "Tiger Snake" of Victoria, known to Tasmanians as the "Diamond Snake," another popular name which leads to confusion if we bear in mind that the "Diamond Snake" (*Morelia spilotes*) of the south-eastern coast of New South Wales is a member of the Python family and harmless.

The third venemous snake is the *Hoplocephalus coronoides*, or "Black-bellied Snake," of small size and wide range. This snake, even when handled, seldom, if ever, offers to bite, and the wound caused by it is not as bad as the sting of a bee.

Two other small snakes (*Brachysoma bimaculatum* and *B. calonotos*), discovered by Mons. Verreaux in 1844, are mentioned by Messrs. Dumeél and Bibron, as inhabitants of Tasmania; since then no more specimens have come to hand from the same locality, and we may fairly conclude that the habitat given by M. Verreaux is erroneous.

The Tasmanian frogs are also few in number. The Hylæ, or "Tree Frogs," represent three species, viz., the common "Golden Tree Frog," Hyla aurea; "Ewing's Tree Frog," Hyla ewingii; and a kind, which I consider to be identical with Hyla verreauxii, all of which are common on the mainland of Australia. Of Swamp-frogs, we find the widely distributed Limnodynastes tasmeniensis, a Pseudophryne discovered by Mr. Masters, and probably new, Pterophrynus tasmaniensis and P. lævis, the two latter much infected by the larvæ of a small fly of the Genus Batrachyomya (Macleay), which insects are also found on allied species in Australia. These are all the species of frogs known from Tasmania, up to the present time.

The fishes, such as inhabit fresh water only, are also limited. No Eleotris, known here as the "Gudgeon," is as yet recorded, though the genus exists in Australia, New Zealand, and South America; of the Galaxida, the so-called "Black-fish," appears to be most common in the Tasmanian streams; this is Richardson's Galaxias truttaceus; we also have specimens of the Galaxias attenuatus, from the Ouse River, collected by Mr. Masters; the "Common Eel," Anguilla australis, and the well known "Fresh-water Herring," Prototroctes marana. I wish I could have added the Salmon, but at present no authenticated specimens exist in any of our colonial museums. Competent judges state that the Salmon has been duly acclimatized, and has been frequently observed in the Derwent, it is therefore much to be regretted, that no specimen has yet been caught, if only to prove beyond doubt the success of one of the greatest experiments of modern times.

In summing up the whole Vertebrata of the island, leaving out the extinct Dingo, Seals, Whales, and Marine fish, we find there are

- 27 Mammals
- 162 Birds
 - 6 Lizards
 - 3 Snakes
 - 7 Frogs, and
 - 4 Fresh-water Fishes.

Together 209 Vertebrata

about thirty-seven of which may be considered peculiar to Tasmania.

The Invertebrata were collected to the number of more than one thousand species, that is to say, of the class Insecta, nine hundred and fifty species, and ninety-eight of the class Mollusca; twenty-one of the latter are Land-shells, and nearly all peculiar to Tasmania. The insects appear, with few exceptions, to be identical with Australian species.

The following is a list of the Invertebrata :---

CLASS INSECTA. ORDER—COLEOPTERA. 640 species, and 7662 specimens.

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ORDER-DIURNAL LEPIDOPTERA.

Papilio macleayanus. Pyrameis itea. Pyrameis cardui. Junonia vellida. Lasiommata merope. Lasiommata philerope. Lasiommata singa. Lasiommata lathoniella. Lasiommata hobartia. Satyrus (one very rare species). Lycæna (four species). Pamphila (two species.) Together sixteen species of Lepidoptera.

> ORDER-HYMENOPTERA. 90 species and 478 specimens.

> ORDER-DIPTERA. 86 species and 689 specimens.

ORDER-NEUROPTERA, ORTHOPTERA, &c. 14 species.

> ORDER-HEMIPTERA. 70 species and 394 specimens.

> ORDER-HOMOPTERA. 34 species and 137 specimens.

CLASS MOLLUSCA.

98 species and 960 specimens, whereof the following are Land shells, and, except *Helix morti*, are all peculiar to Tasmania.

Helix minima (Cox) Helix subangulata (Pfr.) Helix bombycina (Pfr.) Helix diemenensis (Cox) Helix morti (Cox) Helix tasmaniæ (Cox) Helix hobarti (Cox) Helix legrandi (Cox) Helix similis (Cox) Helix lampra (Pfr.) Helix lamproides (Cox) Helix wellingtonensis (Cox) Helix launcestonensis (Reeve) Helix bisulcata (Pfr.) Helix sinclairi (Pfr.) Helix hamiltoni (Cox) Bulimus dufresnii (Leach) Bulimus tasmanicus (Pfr.) Vitrina milligani (Pfr.) Vitrina verreauxi (Pfr.) Succinea australis (Fer.)

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