

# The Emu

Official Organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

"Birds of a feather."

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[PART 4.]

## Description of a New Goshawk.

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, COL. MEM. B.O.U.

*ERYTHROTRIORCHIS RUFOTIBIA*, sp. nov.

*Adult Female*.—Upper Surface.—Head, mantle, and tail coverts blackish-brown (darkest on the head, lightest on the tail coverts), each feather edged with brown, varying in shade from rufous to cinnamon; wing coverts blackish-brown, edged with rufous, so that the dark markings on each feather appear broadly wedge-shaped, same as on rest of upper surface; primaries and secondaries brownish, and tail greyish, all distinctly barred with a darker colour. Under Surface.—Throat and neck dull white, each feather with a narrow dark brown stripe; chest and flanks tinged with rufous, each feather also with a distinct central dark brown stripe; breast and abdomen whitish, feathers narrowly and conspicuously striped with dark brown; tail coverts buffy-white; wing coverts and legs (tibia) rich rufous or chestnut-brown, the former marked with spots of dark brown; wings and tail greyish-white, both beautifully barred with slaty colour. Iris yellow; tarsus yellow; bill black at tip, grey at base (Hill).

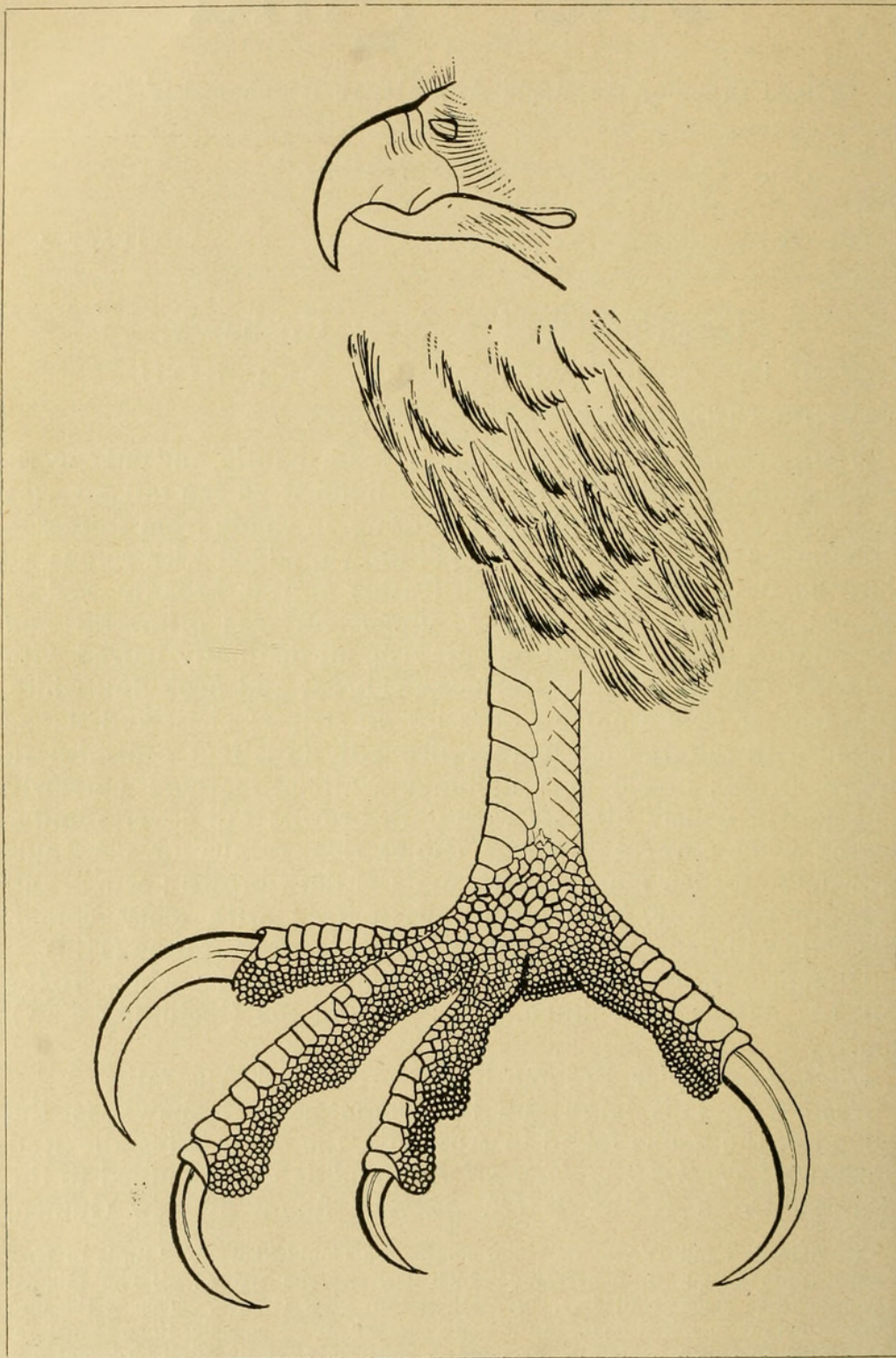
Dimensions in inches:—Total length,  $22\frac{1}{2}$ ; wing,  $16\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail, 10; tarsus, 3; culmen,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; middle toe (including claw),  $3\frac{3}{8}$ .

*Habitat*.—Napier Broome Bay, North-West Australia.

*Remarks*.—This large and handsome new Goshawk is the second of the genus found in Australia, the other being the Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*), and is closely allied to the Marquis Doria Goshawk (*E. doriæ*),\* found in New Guinea,

\* Of Salvadori and D'Alberty. For figures see Gould-Sharpe's "Birds of New Guinea," vol. i., pl. 2, concerning which Dr. Sharpe wrote:—"The original specimen came from Hall Bay, in south-eastern New Guinea. This is the bird which forms the principal figure in the plate, and which we consider to be immature. The second specimen figured in the plate is apparently a fully adult bird, and was obtained by Mr. Goldie on the Astrolabe Mountains, in south-eastern New Guinea. We believe it to be an adult male, and the type to be an immature female, notwithstanding some discrepancies in the proportions of the quills and tail feathers exhibited by the two specimens. If we are correct in thus assuming the relation of these two individuals, then it is evident that the genus *Megatriorchis* is the same as the Australian genus *Erythrotriorchis*, of which *E. radiatus* is the representative species on the latter continent. A larger number of specimens is, however, requisite to settle the point satisfactorily."





Bill and Foot of *Erythrotriorchis rufotibia* (Campbell).  
(About  $\frac{3}{4}$  natural size.)

FROM A DRAWING BY C. C. BRITTLEBANK.



but from which the Australian bird differs chiefly by its lighter colouration, the absence of dark spots on the under tail coverts, and by the very distinct and uniform-coloured (rufous) thighs (tibia).

The addition of an entirely new Hawk for Australia being an ornithological discovery of some importance, I evoked the willing aid of Mr. A. W. Milligan in my research through all the available literature on the subject, and he has concurred in my deduction that this bird has hitherto been undescribed.

While Mr. G. F. Hill, the collector, and Mr. H. L. White, who subsidized his North-Western trip, both receive all credit for the discovery, I propose for the new bird the name *Erythrotriorchis rufotibia*, or the Red-legged Goshawk. In the accompanying illustration Mr. C. C. Brittlebank has kindly drawn the bill and foot of the bird, the latter showing how exceedingly powerful and lengthened are the claws or nails.

Mr. White thoughtfully forwarded this bird to me, with many other large species, for exhibition at the Brisbane session of the R.A.O.U., but, owing to adverse circumstances, the parcel remained in Melbourne until my return. Mr. Hill's field notes regarding the bird appear on page 266 of this issue.

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## Description of a New Ephthianura.

BY EDWIN ASHBY, R.A.O.U., BLACKWOOD, S.A.

EPHTHIANURA LOVENSIS, sp. nov. x

*Adult Male.* — General colour above buff-brown; lesser, median, and greater wing coverts buff-brown, with narrow dark drab centres; primaries, inner web drab, outer web edged with buff, quills reddish-brown; secondaries, centres drab, broadly margined with buff. Tail, two centre feathers dark buffish-brown margined with pale buff, others smoky-drab narrowly margined in outer web with pale buff, inner web broadly tipped with pale buff; upper tail coverts buff-brown washed with yellow; rump buff-brown. Lores deep golden-yellow; brow, cheeks, chin, eyelids, throat, and whole of under side, including under tail coverts, rich yellow; forehead, upper portion of head and neck, and auricular region buff washed with yellow, with centres of feathers drab. Under side of wings pale drab, base of feathers and down slaty-grey; under wing coverts yellow to buffish-white. Bill dark brown; feet and legs brown; iris white.

*Female.* — While the upper portion exhibits the same buffish (desert) colouration as the male, the yellow of the under side is not so rich and extensively blended with buff. In one specimen breast and sides are buff blending into yellow, abdomen rich yellow. In the other the sides of breast are buff



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