

Although narrowly watched, it was never seen to walk or run; its mode of progression was confined to hops of greater or less rapidity. As a rule, it fed beneath cover, save of an evening, between two lights, when it was observed upon an open space near a large clump of rosemary, into which it sped when I passed. It was constantly seen on the move, but presumably took spells where it was screened from view. Occasionally it showed off, spreading its tail. I believe that it was young, because the cheek-markings, instead of being white, were greyish-white. When the bird arrived we were having a spell of dry weather, strong sun-heat, and locally some small bush-fires. These causes combined may account for the bird's visit.—ISAAC BATEY, R.A.O.U.

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**Tasmanian Spotless Crake.**—At Christmastide the Misses Fletcher, Springfield, Tasmania, were good enough to show me a series of eggs belonging to this Crake. The specimens were considerably larger and different from those of the mainland bird. Miss J. A. Fletcher, R.A.O.U., has since kindly sent a skin for identification which is larger and darker coloured (head almost black) compared with birds in the National Museum, Melbourne, taken in Victoria. As I was aware that Mr. H. L. White, R.A.O.U., Belltrees, New South Wales, possessed more material, I submitted the skin to him. The following is his reply:—

“If one looks for sub-specific differences I should say that the birds may be separated. The comparative measurements are:—

|                   | Wing.  |     | Tarsus. |     | Bill.  |     | Longest Toe. |
|-------------------|--------|-----|---------|-----|--------|-----|--------------|
| Tasmania          | 90 mm. | ... | 32 mm.  | ... | 19 mm. | ... | 27 mm.       |
| New South Wales   | 82 „   | ... | 30 „    | ... | 18 „   | ... | 22 „         |
| Western Australia | 88 „   | ... | 31 „    | ... | 20 „   | ... | 28 „         |

“In colouration Tasmania is the darkest, then come New South Wales and Western Australia, in that order.”

The wing measurements of the two birds in the National Museum are each 84 mm.

General description of the Tasmanian bird:—Under surface dark neutral grey, lighter on the throat, and blending into an almost black head. Upper surface dark chestnut.

Should it be found when more material is examined that the insular bird is constantly different from the mainland one, the former locality being that of Gould's *Porzana immaculata*, according to Gregory Mathews (“Birds of Australia,” vol. i., p. 217), then he will have to provide a sub-specific name for the mainland form.—A. J. CAMPBELL.

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**Lyre-Birds and the Camera.**—In August, 1913, Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., and Dr. G. Horne, of Melbourne, journeyed to Poowong (Vic.), equipped with good cameras, to take photographs of the Victoria Lyre-Bird (*Menura victoriae*) in its native haunts.



Campbell, Archibald James. 1914. "Tasmanian Spotless Crake." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 14(1), 66–66.

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