

possibly discover, after the loss of much time in searching out an original description, that the supposed specific value does not exist, and that a name has been given to a form that very often does not merit even sub-specific recognition."

Geobasileus hedleyi, Mathews (*Aust. Avian Rec.*, vol. i., p. 78, 1912) occurs in the south-east of South Australia, and a sub-species (*G. h. rosinae*) near Adelaide, South Australia; but of this species ornithologists in Australia know little or nothing.

Geobasileus flaviventris, the last species in this group, was described in *The Emu*, vol. ix., p. 137 (1910), and was secured at Lake Frome, in the interior of South Australia. Mr. Ashby remarks:—" *Acanthiza flaviventris* differs from *A. chrysorrhoa* in the typical white spots on the forehead, face, and ear coverts being entirely absent; in the general buff coloration, yellow abdomen and under tail coverts."

Some New Australian Birds.

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.R.S.E.

THAT many new endemic Australian species will now be found is not expected, but the addition of well-marked specific forms may be anticipated by means of stragglers. Macgillivray's exploration of the Claudie River district of Cape York Peninsula, by means of M'Lennan, furnished a most extraordinary surprise in the discovery of the two large Parrots, but we cannot hope for further shocks in this delightful manner. We may obtain odd forms such as *Ashbyia lovensis* (Ashby), *Lacustroica whitei* (North), *Kempiella kempi* (Mathews), the two former being Centralian forms, the latter a Cape York species. Another addition is *Erythura trichroa*, a sub-species of which I recorded from the Cape York Peninsula. The erratic occurrence of this species is worthy of remark. It has turned up in various places, each time securing a new specific or sub-specific name. I am now doubtful of its sedentary habits, and am inclined to the belief that it is a sporadic migrant. I am collecting evidence on this point, and will deal fully with the matter at a later date.

I now record as Australian

Munia atricapilla.

Loxia atricapilla, Vieillot, Hist. Nat. Oiseaux Chanteurs, p. 84, pl. liii., 1805: "les Grandes Indes."

In the Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum, vol. xiii., p. 334 (1890), Sharpe gave as range—"Himalayas and Central India to the Burmese countries and the Malayan Peninsula."

A specimen was secured by Mr. Robin Kemp at Cape York, and I concluded it must be a cage-bird that had escaped. Mr. Kemp assures me that it was with wild Finches, and I therefore put it on record. I still think it may have been an escaped cage-

bird, but it deserves record in case the species may be extending its range, though I confess I have no facts at present that this is so.

Another addition is

Collocalia fuciphaga.

A small Swiftlet procured by Mr. Robin Kemp at Cape York, Queensland, was not viewed with much favour, and laid aside for future consideration. A few months ago it was observed to differ from the known Queensland form, and, having little knowledge of this difficult group, but considering the differences merited a sub-specific term, I diagnosed it under the name *Collocalia francica yorki*. Upon re-examination I found the differences cumulative, and I thereupon made further study. The full results will appear in my "Birds of Australia"; but here I may state that the bird was referable to a distinct species—*fuciphaga*, not *francica*—and, further, that up till a couple of years ago two species were confused under the name *fuciphaga*. My blunder may thus receive excuse when I record just a few of the experts' results in connection with this species.

In 1906 Oberholser reviewed the species, and admitted three sub-species and a distinct species. In 1912 he again revised the species and now admitted ten sub-species, reducing the aforesaid species to sub-specific rank. He writes:—"Although the differences between the several races are apparently slight, they are reasonably constant, for individual variation is not great."

Stresemann (*Verhandl. Ornith. Gesellsch. Bayern*, bd. xii., Heft I., pp. 1-12, Mai 15, 1914) reconsidered the matter, and showed two species were confused, and of *fuciphaga* alone he admitted ten sub-species. Though separating sub-species from small groups of islands, New Guinea birds were classed under two sub-specific names only—*C. fuciphaga hirundinacea*, Stresemann, being proposed for Western New Guinea birds, and *C. f. vanikorensis*, ex Quoy and Gaimard, being used, following Oberholser, for specimens for East New Guinea, Louisiades, Santa Cruz, New Hebrides, &c. Quoy and Gaimard (*Voy. de l'Astrol. : Zool.*, vol. i., p. 206) proposed *Hirundo vanikorensis* for a Vanikoro bird. Vanikoro is one of the Santa Cruz group, and the bird was figured on pl. xii., fig. 3. No specimens from this group are available, and had no figure been given I should not have concluded the name was applicable to this species, as Quoy and Gaimard wrote:—"Hirundo, toto corpore nigro . . . cauda longa. . . . Petite espece . . . remarquable par la longueur de sa queue . . . toute noire en dessus." The bird is not black. It is interesting to note that Thunberg's description reads—"Supra atra . . . cauda rotundata"; but again the figure given shows this species.

Ogilvie-Grant (*Ibis*, Jubilee Suppl., No. 2, Dec., 1915) continued the use of *C. f. vanikorensis* for South-West New Guinea specimens, but added a new sub-species of *Collocalia hirundinacea*—

viz., *excelsa*. He had determined that the sub-species *C. f. hirundinacea*, Stresemann, was of specific value.

Having shown that even "doctors have disagreed," I now claim usage for my own sub-species name in preference to *vanikorensis*, Quoy and Gaimard.

I have given Oberholser's comment that the species shows constancy and little variation in its sub-specific forms. This is confirmed by measurements taken by Stresemann, Ogilvie-Grant, and myself. Thus two birds are in the British Museum from the New Hebrides, the nearest locality to the Santa Cruz group. They are both poor specimens, and a female from Efate Island measures 112.5 mm. in the wing; a male from Espiritu Santo Island measures 117 mm. in the wing. Which of these is nearer the typical *vanikorensis* it is impossible to decide. However, I found two birds from St. Aignan Island, South-East New Guinea, collected by A. S. Meek, and I made the wings of both these—one a male, the other a female—to measure 122 mm. I then noted that Stresemann records six specimens from that locality—two in the British Museum and four in Lord Rothschild's museum at Tring. He gives the measurement of the wing as 122, 122, 122, 122, 122, 123.5 mm.

Now, these show such constancy that they cannot be regarded as the same as the New Hebrides birds, and are consequently not true *vanikorensis*. Another bird in the same box in the British Museum, labelled Astrolabe Range, New Guinea, collected by Goldie, is smaller, wing 106 mm. (Stresemann records it as 110), darker above and greyer underneath, with shorter *feathered* tarsus; this is referable to a different species, as the present one has the tarsus *unfeathered*.

The Cape York specimen has the wing 117 mm., and Ogilvie-Grant gives the measurements of the birds from S.W. New Guinea as—wing, 117, 117, 116, 115, 111; so that my bird is nearest those in measurement. Until more birds are available, and especially specimens from the type locality of *vanikorensis*, my name should be preferred for the Cape York specimen, and may be used for the Southern New Guinea form.

The name and references read—

***Collocalia fuciphaga*.**

[***Collocalia fuciphaga fuciphaga*.**

Hirundo fuciphaga, Thunberg, Kongl. Vetensk. Acad. Handl. (Stockh.), vol. xxxiii., p. 153, pl. iv., 1812; "Java in montium." Extra limital.]

***Collocalia fuciphaga yorki*.**

Collocalia francica yorki, Mathews, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. xxxvi., p. 77, 27th April, 1916. Cape York, North Australia. Range, Cape York, North Australia. ? Extra limital.

Notwithstanding this addition, the Australian specific forms do

not increase by one, as it is necessary to eliminate *Collocalia esculenta*. No authentic occurrence of this species in Australia is at present known. The species was added on account of the specimens in the British Museum, but these are "Cockerell" birds. No "Cockerell" species can, in my opinion, be admitted without confirmation.

When I introduced *C. f. yorki* I wrote:—"Differs from *C. f. terræ-reginæ* (Ramsay) in lacking the whitish rump, in being darker below, and in having the bill bigger and broader." These characters will suffice to determine any other Australian specimens, but the legs should be carefully examined under a lens, as there is a very closely allied species which has the tarsus *feathered on the outside*. This might also occur in Australia, as there is a specimen from Southern New Guinea in the British Museum. As above noted, I will give fuller particulars in my "Birds of Australia," where the present bird will be figured.

Magnamytis dorotheæ.

Barnard recorded (*Emu*, vol. xiii., p. 188, 1914) his "Search for *Amytornis woodwardi* in the Northern Territory," and in vol. xiv., p. 45 (1914), added a further note.

In the *Austral Avian Record*, vol. ii., p. 99 (24th September, 1914), I sub-specifically separated these under the name *Magnamytis woodwardi dorotheæ*, writing:—"Differs from *M. w. woodwardi* in its much smaller size and in lacking the black feathers on the head, the head feathers having only a narrow black line on each side of the white shaft. The co-type of *M. woodwardi* measures—culmen 15, wing 78, tail 103, tarsus 26 mm.; *M. w. dorotheæ*—culmen 12, wing 62, tail 86, tarsus 23 mm. Type from Macarthur River, Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory; collected on the 24th September, 1913. Range, Northern Territory (east)."

Recently, reconsideration of this group has convinced me that the bird is specifically distinct, though it is certainly allied to *M. woodwardi* and is referable to the genus *Magnamytis*. Thus it agrees in bill characters, wing formula, feet, and tail with that genus, and differs from *Diaphorillas* in the bill structure, though approaching in its small size the latter genus. In *M. woodwardi* the feathers of the sides of the lower breast are like those of the top of the head, white centres and black edges; these continue across the lower breast, fading into the deep red-brown of the abdomen. In *M. dorotheæ* these black-edged feathers are entirely missing, the sides of the breast agreeing in coloration with the abdomen, which is very pale buff. The mantle feathers are reddish-brown, not black, with white centres, while the secondaries show a broad reddish margin which is only seen as a very narrow line in *M. woodwardi*. Further, the inner primaries of *M. dorotheæ* show the inner edges to be reddish, whereas this is missing in *M. woodwardi*. The accumulation of all these differences compels the specific distinction of *M. dorotheæ*.

Eudyptes serresianus, Oustalet.

In my "Birds of Australia" *Penguinus chrysocome* was included and figured, no authentic Australian specimen being available. When drawing up the "List of the Birds of New Zealand," in conjunction with Iredale, more study had to be given to these birds, and it was found that there was much confusion. Afterwards, continued investigations showed peculiar results, which have been fully developed in *The Ibis*. I give here the items especially affecting the Australian avifauna.

Examination of Forster's drawing, preserved in the British Museum, proved that the first record from Tasmania was of the species known as "*pachyrhynchus*." This suggested further reference to Gould's "Birds of Australia," when plate 83 of vol. vii. was seen to portray the latter species, though given under the name "*chrysocome*." Gould wrote:—"For a fine example of this singular Penguin I am indebted to my friend Ronald C. Gunn, Esq., of Launceston, Van Diemen's Land, who informed me that it had been washed on shore on the northern coast of that island after a heavy gale." I at once wrote to Mr. Witmer Stone, who is in charge of the Gouldian collection at Philadelphia, and he courteously replied (8th September, 1913):—"We have a single specimen from Tasmania marked as *Eudyptes chrysocome*, type of Gould's 'Birds of Australia,' and which matches well Gould's plate, so I have no doubt it is the specimen referred to by him as the basis of the painting. The tufts are bleached almost white from exposure to light, and from the beginning of the white stripe on the lore to the end of the longest feather of the tuft measures 4 inches; the bill, from feathering at base to tip, 2 inches; depth through nostril, .90 inch; width at nostril, .56 inch; width at beginning of basal feathering, .86 inch; tail, 4.15 inches; wing (*i.e.*, from carpal joint to tip), 3.75 inches. The total length I should judge to be 19 inches, but, as the specimen is mounted and head bent, this is somewhat guesswork. I see I have identified the specimen as *pachyrhynchus* . . . many years ago."

It should be noted that Coues also so determined this specimen, though he used the name *chrysocome* as equivalent to *pachyrhynchus*. In the Rothschild Museum at Tring is a specimen labelled "Hobart, Tasmania, 7/1/91, ex Mus. Dresser." This is also referable to *E. pachyrhynchus*.

Consequently, in my "List of the Birds of Australia" I replaced the species *chrysocome* by *pachyrhynchus*. When I was in Australia, however, I noted in the Macleay Museum a specimen of another species, also from Hobart. The trustees acceded to my request, and forwarded this specimen to the British Museum, so that it could be accurately named. This necessitated a review of the group, which was undertaken, with the result that the name of the species proved to be the one given at the head of the note. The two species differ in the following features:—*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* is the larger bird, with dark blue upper coloration, and

the throat deep velvety-black, agreeing with the colour of the cheeks and top of the head. A full crest of yellow feathers commences as a thick line at the lores and extends over the eyes on each side of the head. The bill is very stout, though short. *E. serresianus* is the smaller bird, with generally lighter slate-blue upper coloration, and the throat is slaty or grey-black, agreeing with the cheeks, and much lighter than the black of the top of the head. A long, flowing crest of yellow and black feathers commences at the lores as a thin yellow line extending over the eyes. The bill is shorter than in the preceding, and comparatively slender. When these differences are grasped the birds are easily separable, but without actual comparison of specimens it is difficult to attach the existing records of Penguins in Australian waters. Thus, H. Stuart Dove, in *The Ibis* (1916, p. 86), appears to have been dealing with the smaller species, while Brooke Nicholls's Victorian specimen seems to have undoubtedly been the larger species. In *The Emu*, vol. ix., p. 92 (1909), Conigrave recorded a specimen from Rottnest Island, Western Australia, noting that A. J. Campbell in 1889 had recorded the first from West Australia from Hamelin Harbour, near Cape Leeuwin. I saw two specimens in the South Australian Museum, one of which seemed to be the smaller species, the other the larger; but these must be re-examined. In the Donations to the South Australian Museum, 1914 (Report, p. 12, 1915), appears:—"A big crested Penguin (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*) from Mr. J. W. Hilton, head keeper of the Cape Banks lighthouse." As Mr. E. A. Waite, the Director of the Museum, is familiar with these birds, we can with certainty attach this record to the larger species.

We have, then, for Australia

***Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*, Gray.**

Reference as given in my "List of the Birds of Australia." Tasmania (less than half a dozen records, as Forster, Gould, Dresser Coll. in Tring Museum). (?) Victoria, Brooke Nicholls. South Australian Museum, as above. (?) Western Australia (two records).

To be added—

***Eudyptes serresianus*, Oustalet.**

[*Eudyptula serresiana*, Oustalet, Ann. Sci. Nat. Paris, Ser. vi., Zool., vol. viii., Art. 4, 1878. Tierra del Fuego.]

***Eudyptes serresianus filholi*, Hutton.**

Eudyptes filholi, Hutton, Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W., vol. iii., p. 334, 1879. Campbell Island, N.Z.

One definite occurrence: Hobart, Tasmania (Macleay Museum). (?) Devonport, Tasmania (Dove). (?) Specimen in South Australian Museum.

The Neozelanic sub-specific name must be used, as the Neozelanic birds slightly differ from the typical South American form.



Mathews, Gregory Macalister. 1917. "Some New Australian Birds." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 16(3), 180–185.

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