

4. List of Birds met with in North-eastern Queensland, chiefly at Rockingham Bay. By E. PIERSON RAMSAY, F.L.S. &c., Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney. —Part III.¹

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198. *CHORISOTIS AUSTRALIS*.

Chorisotis australis, Gould, Handbk. B. A. ii. p. 208.

Usually found on the open parts of the grass flats: this bird is not plentiful near Rockingham Bay; I met with it only on two or three occasions. I have described the eggs of this species in 'The Ibis,' 1867, p. 418.

199. *ÆDIDNEMUS GRALLARIUS*.

Ædidenmus grallarius, Gould, Handbk. B. A. ii. p. 210.

The Stone-Plovers, or "Land-Curlews" as they are more commonly called, are very plentiful all over the district, both inland and on the sea-coast. A curious variety of the egg of this species is sometimes found; it is of a rich creamy buff, clouded with a duller tint, or irregularly and indistinctly blotched with dull brownish buff. On showing some of this variety to the late Mr. John Macgillivray, author of the 'Voyage of the Rattlesnake' &c., he assured me they were so remarkably similar to the one found by the late Commander J. M. R. Ince at Port Essington, and described by Mr. Gould² as that of *Esacus magnirostris*, that no doubt as to their identity remained in his mind. On every occasion that I have obtained the buff-coloured egg the accompanying one was of the usual heavily blotched variety, with but few markings at the thin end. This species never lays more than two eggs for a sitting, which vary a good deal in different localities. There are four very distinct varieties in the Dobroyde collection.

200. *ESACUS MAGNIROSTRIS*.

Esacus magnirostris, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 213.

A pair of these interesting birds frequented the sand-pits in the neighbourhood of Cardwell during the time of my visit; they proved too wary to be approached within gun-shot; the white on the wings shows very conspicuously in flight. It is not a rare species, but always very difficult to obtain when found near any of the settlements.

201. *LOBIVANELLUS LOBATUS* (?).

Lobivanellus lobatus, Gould, Handbk. B. A. ii. p. 218.

I heard the cry of a Plover of this genus on one or two occasions, but had no opportunity of ascertaining for certain which species it

¹ Continued from P. Z. S. 1876, p. 123, and concluded.

² Handbk. Birds Austr. ii. p. 213.

was; the bird may have been *Lobivanellus personatus*, but more probably *L. lobatus*. The cry of the latter is well known to me; that of the former, to my knowledge, I never heard. I have been informed by Inspector Robert Johnstone, of the Herbert River, that Spur-wing Plovers occasionally visit that district. The eggs of *Lobivanellus lobatus* vary from rich dark green to olive-brown, with blackish spots and blotches.

202. *SARCIOPHORUS PECTORALIS*.

Sarciophorus pectoralis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 222.

I met with this species only on one occasion, about fifty miles inland, while enjoying the hospitality of Mr. Stone, Superintendent of "The Vale of the Herbert" station, the property of Walter Scott, Esq. In the extensive and well-grassed paddocks around the station a flock of these birds had taken up their abode. Mr. Stone informed me that they remain in the neighbourhood throughout the whole year; and being seldom if ever molested, they showed no symptoms of fear, quietly remaining while I walked within a few feet of them.

203. *CHARADRIUS LONGIPES*.

Charadrius longipes, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 225.

I enumerate this species on the authority of Inspector Johnstone, who informs me the Golden Plover visits the Herbert district every winter.

204. *ÆGIALITIS NIGRIFRONS*.

Ægialitis nigrifrons, Cuvier; Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 232.

This species is not uncommon on the Herbert river, and is found dispersed over the whole of the eastern and southern portions of Australia, even venturing far inland. I have met with it high up on the Bogan and Bell rivers, and on the Murrumbidgee river, near Yass; it gives preference to the margins of inland lakes and lagoons rather than the sea-coast. J. S. Ramsay, Esq., a most persevering and successful oologist, found it breeding during the months of October, November, and December on the margins of the Bell river, at Cardington. There was always a difficulty in discovering the eggs, from their similarity to the adjacent ground on which they were laid, it being necessary to watch the birds to their eggs. James Ramsay, Esq., of Nanama, near Yass, has also sent me authentic eggs of this species, taken in that district, while others which I have received from Melbourne and South Australia all exhibit a similar style and colour in their markings. The eggs are always four in number, and usually placed with the thinner ends together, in a slight depression in the sand or pebbles near water; the ground-colour is of a rich creamy white when fresh, nearly obscured by numerous irregular angular markings and hair-lines of blackish brown, dark brown, and bluish slate-colour, the last appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. In some specimens these markings are close together, giving a clouded appearance to the eggs, in others

about equally dispersed over the whole surface. In some light varieties they are less numerous at the thinner end; and these specimens are slightly smaller in size. Length 1·05 inch by 0·8 inch; the darker and most usual variety 1·1 inch in length by 0·85 inch in breadth.

205. *ÆGIALITIS RUFICAPILLA*.

Ægialitis ruficapilla, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 235.

Unlike the preceding, this species is seldom found far from the sea; they frequent the sands and open salt-water flats, and are usually met with in small troops from five to ten in number; the nest (if it may be so called) is like all others of the genus I have met with, merely a slight depression in the sand or pebbles close to high-water mark; sometimes the eggs are placed among débris containing broken shells and coral &c., above the influence of the tide; they are usually four, but sometimes three, and occasionally only two (but four, I presume, is the correct number for a sitting), placed with the pointed ends together; and without any protection except that afforded them by their similarity to the surrounding objects among which they have been deposited, they are very difficult to be detected. Our collection contains eggs taken at Woolongong and various parts of the sea-coast of New South Wales, also from near Melbourne; but none show any material difference in coloration or form; in size they are slightly larger than those of *Ægialitis nigrifrons*, being 1·2 inch to 1·25 inch in length by 0·93 to 0·94 in breadth, of a light pale stone-brown or very light cream-colour, spotted sparingly with black dots and rather large irregular black blotches and markings, a few of the dots appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell.

They breed from October to December, and sometimes as late as January.

206. *ÆGIALITIS INORNATA*.

Ochthodromus inornatus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 237.

207. *ÆGIALITIS BICINCTA*.

Ochthodromus? bicinctus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 238.

Only once did I meet with these species—of the former a small troop on the sand-spits of the Herbert river; of the latter, one solitary bird remained for a few days on the sands in front of the settlement at Cardwell.

208. *HIMANTOPUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*.

Himantopus leucocephalus, Gould, Handb. B. Austr. ii. p. 246.

While ascending the Herbert river on the 25th of February 1874, and anxiously waiting for a stray shot at an Alligator (*Crocodylus biporcatus*), I met with the only specimen of this bird I noticed during my tour. Firing at the bird I disturbed the Saurian, much to the disgust of my companions, as this identical Alligator had of late

been helping himself rather freely to some of the Kanakas employed on the sugar-plantations. A few days afterwards, however, while returning from an unsuccessful Cassowary-hunt, I had the pleasure of seeing Inspector Johnstone dispatch the beast as it lay, with open mouth, on a sand-spit.

Mr. Johnstone informed me that the Stilted Plover was a very rare bird in that district; but, from the nature of the country and the extensive swampy flats and numerous lagoons, I should have thought the contrary was the case; however, although I remained in the district all through the wet season, I met with no other specimen. The eggs of this species will be found described in a previous number of the Society's 'Proceedings,' 1867, p. 600.

209. *RECURVIROSTRA RUBRICOLLIS*.

Recurvirostris rubricollis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 249.

This bird is very local in its habits, and never seems to be very plentiful in any part of the continent; it is met with occasionally in large flocks; and Inspector Johnstone informs me it sometimes is met with on the Lower Herbert. One or two were observed during my visit; but I failed to obtain any specimens.

210. *LIMOSA UROPYGIALIS*.

Limosa uropygialis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 252.

Very numerous on mud-flats and sand-spits at the mouth of the Herbert river.

211. *LIMNOCINCLUS ACUMINATUS*.

Limnocinclus acuminatus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 254.

A very common species, frequenting the margins of lagoons and swampy places in large flocks sometimes consisting of several hundred individuals.

212. *TRINGA TENUIROSTRIS*.

Tringa tenuirostris, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 260.

I met with a small flock of this species on one occasion only, on the banks of the Herbert.

213. *ACTITIS HYPOLEUCUS*.

Actitis hypoleucus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 263.

I met with this pretty little Sandpiper but once, on the Herbert river, near the police camp.

214. *GLOTTIS GLOTTOIDES*.

Glottis glottoides, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 265.

Common everywhere on margins of lagoons and mud-flats; usually found in small flocks from ten to twenty in number.

215. *STREPSILAS INTERPRES*.

Strepsilas interpres, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 269.

The Turnstone is usually considered a rare species; and it certainly

is so in collections made in New South Wales. I found large flocks of Sandpipers, and among them a few of this species, on the extensive mud-flats at the mouths of the Mary and Fitzroy rivers, and had ample opportunities of watching their habits while stranded in a boat, high and dry, about the middle of an extensive mud-flat, thirty miles long by six miles wide. I spent the best part of a day in this position, waiting for the return of the tide, and, per force, amused myself watching the different species of Waders and Gulls, many of which came within a few yards of our boat.

216. *GALLINAGO AUSTRALIS.*

Gallinago australis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 271.

The Australian Snipe affords good shooting to the sportsman during the season. There were not many of this species in the Herbert district during my visit; but the few we obtained were among the finest and largest I have ever met with.

217. *RHYNCHÆA AUSTRALIS.*

Rhynchæa australis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 274.

That this species occasionally visits the districts near Rockingham Bay is proved by some fine specimens having been shot and skinned by Inspector Johnstone. These were procured a short time prior to my visit, and were still in his possession at the time of my sojourn under his hospitable roof.

The Painted Snipe is by no means a common bird; and although during an occasional very wet season this species may be obtained in tolerable numbers, yet its visits are very uncertain and few and far between. In New South Wales I have obtained specimens from the Clarence river and Lake George; but nowhere have I ever found it plentiful.

218. *NUMENIUS CYANOPUS.*

Numenius cyanopus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 277.

Common everywhere in suitable places and muddy flats along the coast, and occasionally may be found on the margins of lakes and lagoons inland a considerable distance.

219. *NUMENIUS UROPYGIALIS.*

Numenius uropygialis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 279.

220. *NUMENIUS MINOR.*

Numenius minor, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 280.

I observed these species but once during my tour; and, under the same circumstances, I trust I shall not meet them again. Mud-flats are very interesting in their way, especially to the naturalist; but there can be too much of a good thing. Both species are dispersed rather plentifully over the whole of the southern and eastern portions of Australia; and I have received one specimen of *N. minor* from the Lower Darling river, shot on the margins of some of the numerous inland lakes.

221. *CARPHEIBIS SPINICOLLIS*.

Carpheibis spinicollis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 282.

Met with once only, during the wet season, on the Lower Herbert river, in small flocks.

222. *THRESKIORNIS STRICTIPENNIS*.

Threskiornis strictipennis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 284.

I found this species on an extensive mud-flat at the mouth of the Fitzroy river, and have also received specimens from Port Denison. Mr. Johnstone informed me that it occasionally visited the Herbert river.

223. *IBIS (FALCINELLUS) IGNEUS*.

Ibis (Falcinellus) igneus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 286.

I give this species on the authority of Mr. Johnstone, whom I found well acquainted with the bird, and who had obtained a specimen a short time prior to my visit.

224. *PLATALEA REGIA*.

Platalea regia, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 287.

225. *PLATALEA FLAVIPES*.

Platalea flavipes, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 288.

These species are seldom met with in Northern Queensland. I have received *P. regia* from Port Denison, where it was considered a very rare bird; and *P. flavipes* was observed near the mouth of the river Fitzroy, a single specimen only.

Mr. Robert Johnstone informed me that Spoonbills were occasionally seen on the Upper Herbert river; but he did not identify the species with certainty.

226. *GRUS AUSTRALASIANA*.

Grus australasianus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 290.

"Native Companions" were found very plentiful in all the swamps in the Herbert district. Early in the morning their hoarse croaking cry was most frequently heard.

227. *XENORHYNCHUS AUSTRALIS*.

Xenorhynchus australis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 293.

Found in tolerable numbers, in pairs, throughout the district, particularly on the sand-spits and shallows of the Herbert river; they were very wary, and at all times difficult to approach. I was much amused watching a pair of these birds stalking round a large Crocodile sunning himself on one of the numerous sandbanks of the river—the birds carefully eyeing the Saurian, and the Saurian patiently waiting until one of them should come within the swing of his tail (of which the birds were careful to keep out of range). What excited their curiosity I cannot imagine; they must have seen dozens of Crocodiles in their time.

228. ARDEA SUMATRANA.

Ardea sumatrana, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 296.

I met with this species on several of the rivers and estuaries from Moreton Bay to Rockingham Bay; I noticed several of them in Wide Bay, have received specimens from Cleveland Bay, and also observed them at the mouth of the Fitzroy river and on the Herbert river.

I am indebted to my friend the late Charles Coxen, Esq., of Brisbane, for a fine specimen, shot on the Brisbane river; and I have observed them as far south as the Clarence river, where the late Mr. John Macgillivray obtained a specimen. This species is always difficult to obtain, frequenting the extensive mud-flats, where it is impossible to walk, and seldom coming within shot from the shore. A pair were observed, accompanied by two young, well able to fly, in the month of December, showing that this species breeds early in the year.

229. ARDEA PACIFICA.

Ardea pacifica, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 297.

Found (by no means rare, and dispersed usually singly or in pairs) over the whole district, in the neighbourhood of rivers and swamps, also occasionally on the sea-shore mud-flats. They were not difficult to approach; and numerous examples might have been obtained. This species appears to be distributed over the whole of the north-eastern, eastern, and southern portions of Australia; it is common in the Hunter district in New South Wales, and occasionally still found on the Paramatta river near Sydney, but more plentiful further south.

230. ARDEA NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ.

Ardea novæ-hollandiæ, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 299.

Common everywhere along the coast as far north as Cardwell, and extending a considerable distance inland. The eggs are two in number, of a light bluish green colour; the nest is a rough structure of sticks, built in the larger forked branches of trees, often at a considerable distance from water.

231. HERODIAS ALBA.

Herodias alba, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 301.

This is the common White Crane of New South Wales, and is found plentiful on the Hunter river, and sometimes on the shores of Port Jackson, but more plentiful to the north. I found it numerous in Wide Bay and Moreton Bay; and many were met with on the mud-flats at the mouths of the various rivers and creeks as far north as Cooktown. Its range extends to Cape York and New Guinea. I have always found them solitary or in pairs.

232. HERODIAS EGRETTOIDES.

Herodias egrettoides, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 303.

This species is widely dispersed along the shores of Australia, and

met with in similar situations to the preceding (*H. alba*). I have found it a considerable distance inland on the rivers Hunter, Clarence, and Richmond; it is more plentiful to the northward of New South Wales, and found rather numerous in Moreton Bay and Wide Bay, and at the mouth of the Fitzroy river, and near Port Denison. It is not a common species about Cardwell; but Inspector Johnstone, of the Herbert river, informed me that they were more plentiful a little further north, on the Johnstone river and Moryllian harbour.

233. *HERODIAS GARZETTA*.

Herodias garzetta, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 305.

This species is a very scarce bird on the Australian coast; I have never met with it but once in a state of nature, at the mouth of the Brisbane river. I have seen only three examples in Australian collections, all of them obtained from Queensland.

234. *DEMIEGRETTA JUGULARIS*.

Demiegretta jugularis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. sp. 555 & 556, pp. 307-309.

Demiegretta greyi, *ibid.* p. 309.

I did not meet with this species myself; but Mr. George Masters informs me that it is found rather plentiful on all the reefs in Northern Queensland, and that *D. jugularis* and *D. greyi* are one and the same species. From an examination of a fine series of these birds in the Macleayan Museum at Elizabeth Bay, I quite concur with Mr. Gould's and Mr. Masters's opinion. Remains of the slaty blue being found on the primaries and wing-coverts of some of the white birds tends to prove that *D. greyi* is but the adult of *D. jugularis*.

235. *NYCTICORAX CALEDONICUS*.

Nycticorax caledonicus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 311.

This handsome species has a very extensive range, it is plentiful, and breeds among the mangroves on the Hunter river, and as far south as Illawarra. It is found equally plentiful as far north as Cardwell, where, on the Herbert river, it was one of the most common species. Mr. Gould remarks that it "is universally dispersed over the continent of Australia." I have also seen what I believe to be a young bird of this species from New Ireland, collected there by the Rev. G. Brown.

236. *BOTAURUS POICILOPTILUS*.

Botaurus poiciloptilus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 313.

The Australian Bittern is far more plentiful in the Illawarra and southern districts of New South Wales than in any other part of the country I have visited. I have seen specimens from the lakes and marshes in the southern parts of Victoria, near Ballarat, and have also noticed it on the Herbert river, in the Rockingham-Bay district, where it is considered a rare bird, although that part of the country

is admirably adapted for its habits, abounding in extensive swamps and lagoons. I have also met with, I believe, the same species in New Zealand. They are still found to be not rare within a few miles of Sydney; but the Illawarra district is the great stronghold of this species.

237. *BUTOROIDES FLAVICOLLIS*.

Butoroides flavicollis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 315.

The yellow-necked Mangrove-Bittern is plentiful in situations suitable to its habits all over Queensland. I found this species more common there than in New South Wales. In the extensive mangrove swamps and mud flats at the mouth of the Herbert river it is one of the most common birds.

238. *ARDETTA PUSILLA*.

Ardetta pusilla, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 319.

I am happy to report that this beautiful little species is still plentiful in the neighbourhood of Cleveland Bay and also in the Herbert-river district; from both places have I received specimens. The species was once tolerably numerous near Sydney; and there are still specimens in the Dobroyde collection which were shot at Botany Bay and near Newtown. I observe no difference in plumage or size in the Northern Queensland specimens and those shot near Sydney.

239. *PORPHYRIO MELANOTUS*.

Porphyrio melanotus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 321.

Common all over the country, in similar situations to those frequented by it in New South Wales. The "Red-bill" prefers the swamps and extensive lagoons; but where such places are not met with readily, it takes to the banks and margins of the rivers. This species is easily domesticated, and, even in the wild state, when not disturbed, becomes very tame, entering the gardens and farm-yards and feeding with the poultry, to the young of which they prove very destructive. In certain parts of the country, where they are numerous, they do considerable damage to the crops, especially to the young maize. They are also very fond of the Indian corn when ripe: perching on the side of the stems, they detach the "cobs," which they hold steady on the ground with one foot while they pick off and eat the grains. I have seen them eating pieces of cooked and raw meat, holding them in the same way. The nest is a rough structure of rushes and water-weeds &c., placed among the reeds and sedges near the water, or built among reeds in the lagoons, at a considerable distance from the edge, just above water-mark. The eggs are from three to five in number, of a light brown or yellowish stone-colour, varying considerably in tint and in the shape of the markings, but usually spotted and blotched with umber, dark blackish brown, and slaty grey. The young are of a uniform blackish slate-colour on leaving the nest.

240. *TRIBONYX VENTRALIS*.

Tribonyx ventralis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 325.

I do not remember meeting with this species at Rockingham Bay; but I have received specimens from Port Denison (where, at certain seasons, it appears to be plentiful), some miles inland.

241. *GALLINULA TENEBROSA*.

Gallinula tenebrosa, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. 328.

Not so plentiful in any part of Queensland as in New South Wales. I found it, however, thinly distributed as far north as Rockingham Bay, in such situations as are preferred by the *Porphyrio melanotus*.

242. *GALLINULA RUFICRISSA*.

Gallinula ruficrissa, Gould, Suppl. Bds. Austr. vol. i. pl. 79.

A specimen of this rare species was obtained a few miles from Brisbane, in 1873.

I have also examined a skin obtained by Mr. A. Goldie at Port Moresby, New Guinea, the dimensions of which are as follows—total length 9·5 inches, wing 5·5, tail 2·5, tarsus 2, bill 1·2, middle toe 2, its nail 0·3, hind toe 0·75, its nail 0·35. The under tail-coverts are not so bright as in Mr. Gould's figure; and the back is of a more uniform tint.

243. *PARRA GALLINACEA*.

Parra gallinacea, Gould's Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 330.

This Parra is tolerably abundant throughout the swampy regions which abound over the eastern portion of Queensland and north-eastern parts of New South Wales. I have obtained specimens as far south as the Clarence river in New South Wales, its most southern limit, and as far north as the Herbert river in the Rockingham-Bay district. It is found most plentiful in the Rockhampton district wherever the swamps and lagoons occur; the leaves of the gigantic *Nymphæa* and *Nelumbium* afford a safe retreat for this species. I know of few more interesting or more pleasing sights than a troop of this handsome *Parra* wandering among the bright blue and crimson blooms of the giant waterlilies which abound in almost every sheet of water of any extent in North-eastern Queensland.

244. *HYPOTÆNIDEA PHILIPPENSIS*.

Hypotænidea philippensis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 334.

Universally dispersed over the whole of the Australian and South-Sea Islands, and particularly plentiful in the cane-fields of the sugar-growing districts of Queensland.

I have before me a very interesting variety of this species from one of the South Sea-Islands of the Fiji group which has the chin, throat, chest, and breast of a light ashy grey, with a few indistinct bars of slaty ash-colour or greyish slate on the chest and breast; the abdomen and flanks are much the same as in ordinary individuals of the same species; the bill is orange at the base of the lower man-

dible and on the outer margins of the upper. The Australian Museum has also obtained specimens from the Duke-of-York Island and New Ireland, as well as from the Samoan group: in some of the specimens from these last-mentioned islands, the pectoral band is altogether wanting; the same peculiarity occurs in some Fijian examples.

245. *RALLINA TRICOLOR.*

Rallina tricolor, Gould, Suppl. B. Austr. vol. i. pl. 78.

I have no other information to give on the habits of this species than that contained in my "Notes" in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1875, p. 603, where will be found a description of the young and the eggs.

246. *PORZANA FLUMINEA.*

Porzana fluminea, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 339.

247. *PORZANA PALUSTRIS.*

Porzana palustris, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 340.

248. *PORZANA TABUENSIS.*

Porzana tabuensis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 341.

249. *PORZANA (ERYTHRA) QUADRISTRIGATA.*

Porzana (Erythra) quadristrigata, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 343.

All except the first-mentioned of these species I have found by no means rare in Queensland. *P. quadristrigata* was the most common species in the Rockingham-Bay district. *P. tabuensis* and *palustris* were plentiful about Rockhampton and on the swamps in the neighbourhood of the mouth of the Burnett river; *P. fluminea* I met with but once, at Port Mackay.

250. *CHENOPIS ATRATA.*

Chenopsis atrata, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 346.

The Black Swan is found rarely in Queensland north of the Burnett river, which I think was the only place I met with it. I have been informed that it sometimes occurs during wet seasons on the Herbert river.

251. *ANSERANAS MELANOLEUCA.*

Anseranas melanoleuca, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 352.

Plentiful throughout the swampy districts all over the south and eastern portions of Australia. I have examined specimens from South Australia, and met with it almost every day while encamped on the Herbert river. The young were brought in by the natives on several occasions during the months of March and April.

252. *CHLAMYDOCHEN JUBATA.*

Chlamydochen jubata, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 354.

This fine species of Wood-Goose is not by any means so plentiful

in Queensland as in New South Wales. I met with them only on one or two occasions, at the mouth of the Burnett river, and inland about fifty miles from the coast, near the head-waters of the Herbert river.

253. *NETTAPUS PULCHELLUS*.

Nettapus pulchellus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 357.

This species is one of the rarest in our Australian collections, occasional stragglers only visiting the eastern portions of Queensland, whence I have only seen three skins. It is at times found at Cape York; and Inspector Johnstone, of Cardwell, informed me that he once met with a specimen in one of the numerous swamps of the Herbert district.

Mr. Wilcox, of the Clarence river, I believe once obtained it, in company with the common species, *N. albipennis*, from one of the swamps near Grafton.

254. *NETTAPUS ALBIPENNIS*.

Nettapus albipennis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 359.

This is one of the most common species in the neighbourhood of Rockhampton and on the Fitzroy river; it is also plentiful on the Burnet-river swamps.

255. *TADORNA RAJAH*.

Tadorna rajah, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 360.

I found this fine Wood-Duck breeding in holes in the hollow limbs of trees during the months of December and January. It is a common species all over Queensland north of the Mary river. I have received specimens from Port Denison and Rockingham Bay, and also examined specimens from Port Moresby, in New Guinea. The Port-Moresby birds have a much narrower pectoral band than is found in the Australian examples I have seen.

256. *ANAS SUPERCILIOSA*.

Anas superciliosa, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 363.

257. *ANAS PUNCTATA*.

Anas punctata, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 365.

258. *DENDROCYGNA GOULDI*.

Dendrocygna gouldi, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 374.
D. vagans? auct.

259. *DENDROCYGNA EYTONI*.

Dendrocygna eytoni, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 375.

These four species I found plentiful in the swamps and rivers of North-eastern Queensland. The first three mentioned are the most plentiful and widely distributed.

D. gouldi I have seen even from southern parts of New S. Wales,

and some in the flesh said to have been obtained from the lakes near Ballarat, in South Australia. It is one of the most common ducks north of the Burnet river.

D. eytoni is abundant near Port Denison; and from Rockingham Bay I have also obtained specimens. An egg taken from the oviduct by Mr. Rainbird, of Port Denison, measures 1.95 inch by 1.5 in breadth; it is of a light creamy white, and slightly ovate, and appears to be comparatively a very small egg for a bird of this size to lay.

260. *NYROCA AUSTRALIS*.

Nyroca australis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 377.

Met with once in the swamps of the Herbert-river district.

261. *LARUS PACIFICUS*.

Larus pacificus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 385.

I found this noble species rather plentiful on the mud-flats and margins of many of the rivers at low tides. They ascend the rivers in company with *Xema jamesoni* to a considerable distance. I noticed several pairs near the wharfs at Rockhampton.

262. *XEMA JAMESONI*.

Xema jamesonii, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 387.

Common all along the coast from Melbourne to Cape York.

263. *STERCORARIUS CATARRHACTES*.

Stercorarius catarrhactes, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 389.

264. *SYLOCHELIDON CASPIA*.

Sylochelidon caspia, Gould, Handbk. ii. B. Austr. p. 392.

265. ? *THALASSEUS POLIOCERCUS*.

? *Thalasseus poliocercus*, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 396.

266. *STERNA MELANORHYNCHA*.

Sterna melanorhyncha, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 398.

I obtained these Terns on one occasion in Rockingham Bay; they did not appear to be rare in that neighbourhood.

267. *STERNULA PLACENS*.

Sternula placens, Gould, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 4 ser. vol. vii p. 192.

I first found this beautiful species December 1865, at the mouth of the Richmond river, when I took it for *S. nereis*. I have repeatedly found them at different times during the last six years from as far south as Illawarra to Rockingham Bay in North-eastern Queensland, where it appears to be one of the most common species of Tern.

268. *HYDROCHELIDON FLUVIATILIS.*

Hydrochelidon fluviatilis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 406.

This species I have obtained from the Richmond river and Rockingham Bay; it was also tolerably plentiful at the time of my visit in December 1870, at Rockhampton, on the Fitzroy river, and on the Mary river.

269. *GELOCHELIDON MACROTARSA.*

Gelochelidon macrotarsa, Gould, Handb. B. Austr. ii. p. 403.

I found this fine Tern on the Brisbane river in 1873-4, and also obtained a fine pair of adult specimens from the Clarence river. I met with it at Rockingham Bay, at the mouths of the Herbert river, and also at a considerable distance up the stream, about 20 miles from the mouth. It is still rare in Australian collections.

270. *ANOUS STOLIDUS.*

Anous stolidus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 413.

Common on all parts of the east coast.

271. *DIOMEDEA MELANOPHRYS.*

Diomedea melanophrys, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 438.

Met with only on one occasion off the coast near Gladstone, Port Curtiss.

272. *PELECANUS CONSPICILLATUS.*

Pelecanus conspicillatus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 486.

I noticed this fine species breeding in great numbers on a flat-topped rocky island off the coast near Cleveland Bay. Numbers were soaring over the island, some close to the surface, others sitting quite motionless on the ground, the neck held upright, with the head and bill at right angles to it, giving the group quite a grotesque appearance.

273. *PHALACROCORAX NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ.*

Phalacrocorax novæ-hollandiæ, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 488.

This fine species is common all along the eastern coast; it ascends the river to a considerable distance, and seems as much at home in fresh as in salt water.

274. *PHALACROCORAX MELANOLEUCUS.*

Phalacrocorax melanoleucus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 493.

275. *PHALACROCORAX STICTOCEPHALUS.*

Phalacrocorax stictocephalus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 495.

Both common species, frequenting the bays and inlets of the sea

and the mouths of the rivers, swamps, and lagoons, and even water-holes at a considerable distance inland. They nest in trees overhanging the rivers or waterholes, making a rough nest of water-weeds and débris: lay 2 to 3 eggs.

I met with both species in a small lagoon some twenty miles inland in the Herbert-river district in March 1874.

A large white-breasted species was seen on several occasions in Rockingham Bay; but none were shot, and I was too far off to identify the bird; but it was probably *P. varius*.

276. *PLOTUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ*.

Plotus novæ-hollandiæ, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 496.

This is a widely distributed species, found on all the rivers as far north as Cape York. I have also met with it at a great distance inland. That its range extends to New Guinea is proved by the fact that the Museum has lately received a specimen from the "Laloki river," near Port Moresby, about fifteen miles from the settlement. There are some slight differences in the style of coloration of the New-Guinea specimen, but scarcely sufficient for the foundation of a new species.

277. *PHAËTON PHÆNICURUS*.

Phaëton phœnicurus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 501.

Seen occasionally off Hinchinbrook Island.

278. *SULA AUSTRALIS*.

Sula australis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 504.

Rather plentiful in the Bay off Cardwell.

279. *SULA FIBER*.

Sula fiber, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii, p. 507.

Occasionally seen in the bay, but more plentiful off a small reef to the south-east of Hinchinbrook Island, and near the mouth of the Herbert river.

280. *PODICEPS*, sp. inc.

This I take to be *P. gularis*. Only met with on one occasion, in a chain of lagoons near the Herbert river.

APPENDIX.

Shortly after my return from Queensland, Mr. Sub-Inspector Armit, who had taken great interest in my pursuits, forwarded me a small collection of birds from the neighbourhood of Georgetown, and also some very interesting notes on the avifauna of that district. From this collection I can add the following species which I had not observed myself:—

HALCYON PYRRHOPYGIA, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 130,

FALCO HYPOLEUCUS, Gould, Handb. B. Austr. i. p. 24,

MYZOMELA PECTORALIS, Gould, Handb. B. Austr. i. p. 557,

several specimens in various stages of plumage; and the following, which may claim to be added to this list:—

281. PARDALOTUS RUBRICATUS.

Pardalotus rubricatus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 158.

This species builds a nest very similar to that of *P. melanocephalus* and *S. punctatus*, digging a tunnel in a soft bank, and making a loosely woven structure in a hollowed-out chamber at the end. The eggs are four in number, white, and about the same size as those of *P. melanocephalus*. In length 0·7 inch by 0·55 in breadth.

Hab. Ethridge river, Queensland.

282. PARDALOTUS UROPYGIALIS.

Pardalotus uropygialis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 166.

Mr. Armit informs me that this bird breeds in the same manner as the foregoing, and that its habits and actions are the same.

Hab. Ethridge river, Queensland.

283. PACHYCEPHALA FALCATA.

Pachycephala falcata, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 213.

In these specimens the male has the chest of a dull light sandy brown.

284. PTENÆDUS RUFESCENS.

Ptenædus rufescens, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 397.

285? MALURUS CRUENTATUS.

Malurus cruentatus, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 334.

286. POËPHILA MIRABILIS.

Poëphila mirabilis, Homb. et Jacq.; Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 421.

One female sent confirms the fact of *P. gouldiæ* being the female of *P. mirabilis*. Mr. Armit found them breeding. The male bird had, he states, the face carmine red.

287. PTILOTIS SONORA.

Ptilotis sonora, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 504.

288. PTILOTIS UNICOLOR.

Ptilotis (Stomiopera) unicolor, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 523.

289. ENTOMOPHILA RUFIGULARIS.

Entomophila (Conopophila) rufigularis, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. i. p. 533.

290. MELITHREPTES LÆTIOR.

Melithreptus lætior, Gould, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 4, vol. xvi. p. 287.

291. CALOPSITTA NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ.

Calopsitta novæ-hollandiæ, Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 84.

292. PTILOSCLERA VERSICOLOR.

Ptilosclera versicolor, Vigors ; Gould, Handbk. B. Austr. ii. p. 98.

Some fine specimens were obtained on Carron's Creek.

This brings my list of Birds of North-eastern Queensland &c. to a close. I might have added several more to it had I been enabled to remain longer in some of the inland districts ; and I regret also that I did not shoot specimens of some of the species. These consequently I have not been able to determine with that degree of certainty I should like ; for I find in one or two instances the birds I then took to be identical with our New-South-Wales species have turned out to be *new*. This is the case with *Oreocincla*, sp. No. 110, which I find to be *O. iodura* of Mr. Gould.

I also observed that the *Sittella leucocephala*, from the neighbourhood of Port Denison, has a *white* band through the wing instead of a reddish or "*rusty-red*" one, as described by Mr. Gould. In other respects it is almost exactly the same. I have only observed three specimens with this peculiarity, but am daily expecting a large series from Bowen, when I will make some further remarks, and give a fuller description of the bird ; for the present I propose the name of *albata* for the Port-Denison specimens, distinguished by having a *white band through the wing*, commencing on the *first primary* and *extending to the 9th quill*.

SITTELLA ALBATA, sp. nov.

Head and neck, a small spot at the base of the primaries on the underside of the wing, a band through the wing as far as the 9th quill, the upper tail-coverts, and the tips of all the tail-feathers except the centre two, snow-white ; under surface ashy white, with a broad dark-brown stripe down the centre of each feather ; under tail-coverts of a darker brown, tipped and margined anteriorly with white ; back and scapulars brown, darker in the centres of the feathers ; wing- and tail-quills blackish brown, the former crossed with a white band as far as the ninth quill ; bill at the base, the legs and feet, and skin round the eye yellow, remainder of the bill black. Length 3·7 inches, wing 3, tail 1·5, tarsi 1·7, bill 0·5, bill from gape 0·7.

Finally, I may as well correct an error which occurs in the name of sp. no. 57, Part I. of this paper (P. Z. S. 1875, p. 584) : *Artamus cinereus* should be *Artamus albiventris*, Gould. And under sp. no. 125, *Stigmatops subocularis*, the latter part of my remarks refer to *Stigmatops ocularis*, the Sydney species.



Ramsay, Edward Pearson. 1877. "List of birds met with in north-eastern Queensland, chiefly at Rockingham Bay." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1877, 335–351.

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