

# The Emu

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"Birds of a feather."

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[PART I.

## On the Birds of North-West Australia.\*

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With Field Notes by the Collector, J. P. ROGERS.

### PART I.—BIRDS FROM WYNDHAM.

IN June, 1908, I arranged with Mr. J. P. Rogers to collect bird-skins for me in North-West Australia, that part of the country being well known to him. He reached Wyndham on 1st August, and pitched his camp about 25 miles from there, on Parry's Creek. He writes:—"My camp is 5 miles west of Trig. Station H.J. 9, which is marked on the Lands and Survey Department Lith. No. 142, which accompanies this. It is on the edge of a large plain which stretches into Wyndham. This plain turns into a salt-marsh about 9 miles from Wyndham, at a place known as the Nine-mile Ridge. Between my camp and this ridge the plain is flooded in the wet season, and forms a great breeding-ground for many species of waterfowl. In the other direction, up Parry's Creek, there is plenty of scrub along the creek, and also plenty of fairly large timber. At a short distance from the camp there are two rough ranges of hills, and at the bottom of these hills to the south-west there is a high plateau that is always dry, even in the wet season. I think that the locality should give good results, as there are all descriptions of country within a short distance of my camp.

"In this district very few birds use feathers for lining their nests; *Taniopygia castanotis* alone seems to do so."

So far I have received three hundred and thirty skins of seventy-one species.

### SYNÆCUS SORDIDUS (Sombre Brown Quail).

Mathews, Handl. B. Austr., No. 12.

Two adult males and two females. Parry's Creek, 29/9/08, 10/10/08.

\* Mr. Mathews proposes to continue observations on the North-Western birds on the excellent lines laid down by Mr. Robert Hall, C.M.Z.S., &c. *Vide Emu*, i., p. 87; ii., p. 49; and vii., p. 138. In the technical names Mr. Mathews follows his "Handlist" (*vide* Suppl., *Emu*, vii.), while the vernacular names are according to the list of Australian birds adopted by the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science (1898). The latter list is mainly followed by the A.O.U., pending the adoption of an authorized Australian "Check-List."—EDS.



Eyes dark red ; feet and tarsi yellow ; bill brown, base of lower mandible leaden-grey.

The stomach contained fragments of seeds of annual plants, but no grass seeds.

So far not common.

*GEOPELIA HUMERALIS* (Barred-shouldered Dove).

Math., Handl. B. of Austr., No. 33.

Adult male and female. Parry's Creek, 7/9/08.

Iris pale yellow, bare skin round the eye dull purple ; feet pink-red, darker than tarsi ; bill dull yellow.

Very common. Early in the morning I have frequently seen 20 to 30 perched in a dead tree near my camp.

*GEOPELIA CUNEATA* (Little Dove).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 35.

Two females. Parry's Creek, October, 1908.

Iris light red, with bare skin round the eye red ; feet white, tarsi fleshy-white ; bill brown.

The stomach and crop contained a quantity of small, round seeds.

On the night of 21st August, about 9 o'clock, I flushed this bird from the grass. I saw by the light which I was carrying that it belonged to this species. Again, on 29th September, at very early dawn, I flushed another example from the ground, where it had apparently roosted all night. There were several trees close by.

*PHAPS CHALCOPHTERA* (Bronze-wing).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 37.

Adult male and female. Parry's Creek, 20/9/08.

Eyes dark brown ; feet and tarsi pinky-red ; bill brownish-black.

The stomach contained seeds of the acacia and other seeds.

*HISTRIOPHAPS HISTRIONICA* (Flock-Pigeon).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 39.

Two adult males and one female. Parry's Creek, 5/10/08.

Eyes dark brown ; feet and tarsi leaden-blue ; back of tarsus fleshy-brown ; bill brown.

The stomach contained seeds of the pea-bush, native rice, and a quantity of other larger seeds.

*LOPHOPHAPS PLUMIFERA* (Plumed-Pigeon).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 45.

Adult male and four females. Parry's Creek, 24/8/08, 5/11/08.

Iris yellow ; bare skin before and behind the eye bright red ; feet and legs brown ; bill brown, with pale brown tip.



These birds are common in rough, stony country, and only leave it to go to water. They spend the hotter hours under a shady tree near water, and drink many times during the day.

The stomach contained small, round seeds.

Their colouring is a great protection. At a spring in the hills, 1 mile west of Dellan Spring, 40 miles inland from here, there is a large, red, smooth stone, rising from the water's edge at an angle of about 50 degrees and reaching to a height of 60 feet. There are a few small cracks and little knobs scattered over the smooth surface of the rock, but absolutely no cover of any kind. On the 13th September I watched about 50 of these Pigeons; some were drinking and some perched on the little knobs or running about the face of the rock, where they could easily be seen. Then a *Falco lunulatus* (Little Falcon) came over the top of the rock and made a swoop at the birds, when every one of them lay flat on the rock. It was fully a minute before I could see them, and then only three or four. I had to wait two or three minutes before the rest moved, and they could not be seen till they moved.

No day is too hot for them. If undisturbed they will stand motionless on a stone when one can feel the ground hot even through thick boots.

Usually if the distance be short they run to water, but if the distance be too great they run a little and then fly about 150 yards, then run again, and so on.

#### PODICIPES NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ (Black-throated Grebe).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 65.

Adult male. Parry's Creek, 12/8/08.

Iris pale yellow; feet and legs olive-brown, soles of feet brownish; bill—upper mandible brown, lower mandible grey; corner of mouth pale greenish-yellow.

Common in the wet season, December to March. During the rest of the year it is rare, although found on the large waterholes.

#### HIMANTOPUS LEUCOCEPHALUS (White-headed Stilt).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 161.

Adult male. Parry's Creek, 1/10/08.

Eyes red; feet and legs pinky-red; bill black.

The stomach contained a quantity of small shell-fish, which were swallowed whole, and some beetles in fragments.

#### LIMOSA LIMOSA\* (Black-tailed Godwit).

Math. Handl. B. Austr., No. 168.

Male. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris brown; feet and tarsi olive-brown; bill—distal half brown, shading to pale brown at base of upper mandible, and greyish-white at base of lower mandible.

\* See remarks, p. 28.



The stomach contained hard, round seeds of two different sorts.

*PISOBIA RUFICOLLIS* (Little Stint).

Math. Handl. B. Austr., No. 179.

Two males. Parry's Creek, October, 1908.

Iris brown; feet and tarsi black; bill black.

One stomach contained some grit and a few insects; the other three large, hard seeds and a quantity of some animal matter which was unrecognizable.

Seen in small flocks of 10 to 12 at Roebuck Bay in May, June, and July. Some of these birds were in partly rufous plumage. The breast of one was very rufous.

*HETEROPYGIA AURITA* (Sharp-tailed Stint).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 181.

Two adult females. Parry's Creek, 26/9/08.

Eyes blackish-brown; feet and tarsi olive-yellow; bill brown, base of lower mandible grey.

The stomach contained a few small fresh-water shell-fish and some grit.

*NYCTICORAX CALEDONICUS* (Night-Heron).

Math., Handl. B. of Austr., No. 210.

Immature female. Parry's Creek, 9/9/08.

Iris yellow; orbital region olive-yellow; feet and legs olive-green; culmen and cutting edges brown, remainder of bill olive-green.

Common in the dense scrub along the creeks. The immature birds were seen fishing at 10 a.m. on 30th August, the day being hot and calm.

On 24th September several were seen fishing about here. They were perched on some rocks at the water's edge. When a fish rose to the surface, sometimes 10 feet away from them, in deep water, one would fly out and alight on the water, snapping at the fish. The wings were kept raised, and the bird only stayed a second or two on the water and then flew back to the rocks. Two fish were caught in this manner while I watched.

On 6th October, 1908, an adult was seen drinking at 10 a.m. It drank very slowly, taking a sip at about one-minute intervals. The day was warm.

*DUPETOR GOULDI* (Yellow-necked Mangrove-Bittern).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 214.

Immature? Parry's Creek, 10/9/08.

Iris light yellow; feet olive-brown; bill and naked skin round eye brown; genys greyish-white.



ASTUR NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ (White Goshawk).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 256.

Adult male. Parry's Creek, 8/10/08.

Eyes orange-red ; feet and tarsi yellow ; bill black, cere and corner of mouth yellow.

Stomach contained remains of a small fresh-water crab.

This bird looks like a Cockatoo when flying, and does not throw the other birds into confusion like other Hawks.

CERCHNEIS CENCHROIDES (Kestrel).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 280.

Adult male. Parry's Creek, 24/8/08.

Iris brown, eyelid yellow ; feet and legs yellow ; bill—tip black, base of upper and lower mandibles yellowish-grey, cere pale yellow.

Several seen between 20 miles and 9 miles of Wyndham, on the big plain. These birds were last seen here on 24th August, when the above specimen was shot.

NINOX OCCIDENTALIS (Western Winking-Owl).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 289.

Two adult males and three females. Parry's Creek, 9/10/08.

Eyes yellow ; feet yellow ; bill and cere yellowish-brown, tip and cutting edges brown.

The stomach contained several grasshoppers and a great many cockchafer-beetles and insects, which were swallowed whole.

Usually spend the day in a patch of thick foliage, and often call during the day, but not so loudly as at night.

TRICHOGLOSSUS RUBRITORQUES (Red-collared Lorikeet).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 303.

Five males, three females, and one of doubtful sex. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris red, with inner ring of brown ; feet and tarsi olive-brown ; bill red.

The stomach contained fragments of the centres of flowers and stamens of flowers, beetles, and seeds, and gullets of some contained honey.

PTILOSCLERA VERSICOLOR (Varied Lorikeet).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 306.

One male and two females. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris—male, yellow, skin round eye creamy-white ; female, brown, skin round eye creamy-white ; feet leaden-blue ; bill pale red, with tip and cutting edge of mandibles brown ; cere creamy-white.

The stomach contained fragments of flowers and gullet was full of honey ; honey ran out of the mouth of one female when shot.



## PTISTES ERYTHROPTERUS (Red-winged Lory).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 331.

Male. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris with outer ring of pale red and inner ring of dark brown ; feet and tarsi black ; bill red, with tip and cere yellowish-red.

The stomach contained seeds and pulp of fruit.

## EURYSTOMUS PACIFICUS (Dollar-Bird).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 381.

Two adult males and one female. Parry's Creek, 12/10/08.

Eyes dark brown ; feet and tarsi red ; bill red, tip of upper mandible black.

The stomach contained a quantity of cockchafers, which were crushed and swallowed whole.

First arrived here on 9th September. Their favourite resting-place is the topmost branch of a dead tree. They always keep near a creek or waterhole. As a rule they are noisy.

They are scattered along Parry's Creek every half-mile or so, and they always keep near the same spot. I have sent my blackboy up several trees, but so far have found no nests.

## ALCYONE PULCHRA (Purple Kingfisher).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 383.

Two adult males and one female. Parry's Creek, 29/9/08.

Eyes brownish-black ; feet and tarsi orange-red ; bill black, tip pale red.

The stomach contained one small frog.

Very rare on Parry's Creek ; usually found on creeks and rivers, seldom on waterholes.

## DACELO CERVINA (Fawn-breasted Kingfisher).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 388.

Adult male and two females. Parry's Creek, 20th August, 1st September, 1908. Young male, 10/11/08 (27 days old).

Iris pearly-white in adult, greyish-brown in young ; feet and legs grey in adult, pale yellow in young ; bill—upper mandible dark brown, lower pale fleshy-white.

The bills are usually dirty ; I have to wash them to see the colour.

Thinly distributed wherever there are large trees.

The stomach of young contained fragments of grasshoppers and a few small bones.

## HALCYON PYRRHOPYGIUS (Red-backed Kingfisher).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 390.

Three adult males and one female. Parry's Creek, 21/9/08.

Eyes brown ; feet and legs olive-brown ; bill blackish-brown, base of lower mandible fleshy-white.



The stomach contained a lizard 8 inches long.

A few distributed along the creek.

**HALCYON SANCTUS** (Sacred Kingfisher).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 391.

Three adult males and four females. Parry's Creek, 10/10/08.

Eyes brown in male, blackish-brown in female; feet and tarsi brown; bill black, base of lower mandible fleshy-white.

The stomach of all contained cockchafer beetles, and two had remains of a small lizard.

Fairly numerous on the timbered flats and creeks.

**CYPSELUS PACIFICUS** (White-rumped Swift).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 403.

Sex? Parry's Creek, October, 1908.

Iris black; feet blackish-brown; bill black.

The stomach contained a quantity of insects, a number of which were not broken.

**CUCULUS INORNATUS** (Pallid Cuckoo).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 405.

Male and female. Parry's Creek, 9/11/08.

Iris—male, brown, eyelid yellow; female, grey, with narrow inner ring of brown; feet and tarsi olive-brown; bill brown, base of lower mandible olive, corner of mouth yellow.

The stomach contained hairy caterpillars and fragments of other insects, and white seeds the size of AA shot.

The above specimens were the second ones seen.

**CACOMANTIS RUFULUS** (Fan-tailed Cuckoo).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 406.

Male. Parry's Creek, 9/9/08. Three males. Parry's Creek, 11/11/08.

Iris reddish-brown; feet pale olive-yellow; bill black, lower mandible brown.

The stomach contained hairy caterpillars.

Heard this bird call for the first time on 19th August. They were common on the 3rd November. They leave this part of the country in March.

**MESOCALIUS PALLIOLATUS** (Black-eared Cuckoo).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 409.

Three males and three females. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris brown; feet and tarsi leaden-brown; bill black.

The stomachs contained hairy caterpillars, and that of one of the females seeds of the fig.

Seen for the first time on 2nd November. On the 14th November they were common. Never saw so many in one place before. These birds leave this part of the country in March.



## CHALCOCOCCYX BASALIS (Narrow-billed Bronze-Cuckoo).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 410.

Three females and one of doubtful sex. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris greyish-white; feet and tarsi leaden-brown; bill black, with base of lower mandible brown.

The stomach contained hairy caterpillars.

First seen on 31st October. They were common on the 3rd November. About a mile up Parry's Creek the caterpillars were very numerous, and the Cuckoos were busy eating them.

## EUDYNAMIS CYANOCEPHALA (Koel).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 415.

Two males and one female. Parry's Creek, October, 1908.

Iris red; feet and tarsi leaden-blue; bill olive-grey, base of culmen and lids of nostril blackish-brown.

The stomach contained a quantity of green figs, &c.

First heard on 15th October. They are skulking birds. When perched among thick branches, they move about very quietly.

## CENTROPUS PHASIANUS (Coucal).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 417.

Two immature males and two females. Parry's Creek, 22/9/08.

Eyes light brown; feet and legs leaden-blue; bill brown, with lower mandible greyish-white.

The stomach contained one small lizard, two grasshoppers, and three bad-smelling wood-bugs.

Numerous along the creek. I heard the call for the first time on 10th September, which was the first hot-season day we had had. It was only the first few notes of the call, and uttered half an hour after sundown. Saw one on an open piece of ground. When the bird heard me it lay flat on the ground, and did not move till I stopped and looked at it. It then flew into a tree about 30 yards away. They call till 9 o'clock in the evening.

## MICRÆCA PALLIDA (Pale Flycatcher).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 435.

Three males and three females. Parry's Creek, 19/8/08.

Iris dark brown; feet and legs brown; bill brown, base of lower mandible light brown.

Sparingly distributed; only a few pairs seen. One male and female were got with one shot.

The stomach contained some whole beetles and fragments of insects.

Found a nest on 4th October in horizontal fork of a small



eucalyptus tree, about 15 feet from the ground. On 8th October they began to line it.

*SMICRORNIS FLAVESCENS* (Yellow-tinted Tree-Tit).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 450.

Four adult males and two females. Parry's Creek, 24/9/08.

Eyes very pale yellow; feet and tarsi leaden-grey; bill—upper mandible pale brown, lower white.

The stomach contained very small beetles and aphides.

*GERYGONE ALBIGULARIS* (White-throated Fly-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 451.

Three adult males, three adult females, and one immature male. Parry's Creek, 10/9/08.

Adult—Iris red; feet and legs brown; bill black, tip brown. Immature—Iris light reddish; feet and legs leaden-blue; bill brown, base of lower mandible pale brown.

Very active bird when feeding. The stomach contained fragments of small insects.

*PSEUDOGERYGONE CHLORONOTA* (Green-backed Fly-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 465.

Two males. Parry's Creek, 7/9/08.

Iris reddish-brown; feet blackish-brown; bill blackish-brown, base of lower mandible light brown.

Very few seen. The stomach contained caterpillars and fragments of a few insects.

*PŒCILODRYAS CERVINIVENTRIS* (Buff-sided Robin).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 469.

Seven males and five females. Parry's Creek, October and November, 1908.

Eyes dark brown; feet and tarsi leaden-grey; bill black.

Common; always frequents patches of scrub near water. Usually found in pairs. One pair of the above was mating.

The stomach contained fragments of beetles.

Two immature have under surface rusty-brown.

The eggs of two nests were sent; one nest contained two eggs, the other only one.

*RHIPIDURA DRYAS* (Wood Fantail).

Math., Handl. B. Aust., No. 485.

Female. Parry's Creek, 1/9/08.

Iris brown; feet and legs brown; bill dark brown.

First seen in dense tangle of creepers on the banks of Parry's Creek. This is the first record from this district of this species.



## RHIPIDURA ISURA (Northern Fantail).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 486.

Three males and two females. Parry's Creek, October, 1908.

Iris brown; feet and tarsi brown; bill—female, tip and culmen blackish-brown, base of upper and lower mandibles grey, balance of bill brown; male, black, base of lower mandible pale brown.

The stomach contained some fragments of small flies.

These are parents of spirit specimen 193.

Found along the banks of the creeks, both in low scrubs and high trees. Nest found 23rd October contained two young birds; it was placed on the half-dead horizontal limb of a "fish poison" bush about 2 feet from the ground.

## RHIPIDURA TRICOLOR (Black-and-White Fantail).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 487.

Adult male and two females. Parry's Creek, 28/9/08.

Eyes black; feet and tarsi black; bill black.

The stomach contained many small winged insects.

## MYIAGRA CONCINNA (Blue Flycatcher).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 489.

Five adult males and six females. Parry's Creek, 29/9/08.

Eyes black; feet and tarsi brownish-black; bill leaden-blue, tip black.

The stomach contained remains of small winged insects.

Thinly distributed in timbered country, usually along creeks.

## SISURA NANA (Little Flycatcher).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 494.

Six males. Parry's Creek, 9/9/08. One female, 29/10/08.

Iris blackish-brown; feet and legs black; culmen black, lower mandible and cutting edges of upper dark leaden-blue.

Sparingly distributed along creek and near waterholes.

The stomach contained fragments of small insects.

## CORACINA HYPOLEUCA (White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 506.

Two males. Parry's Creek, 31/8/08.

Iris brown; feet and legs black; bill black.

Saw a few of these birds, usually near creeks in heavy timber.

The stomach contained fragments of beetles and figs.

## LALAGE TRICOLOR (White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 510.

Four adult males, three females, and three immature males. Parry's Creek, August and September, 1908.

Iris brown; feet and legs dark leaden-grey in adult male, olive-brown in immature male, brown in female; bill black, base



of lower mandible greyish-brown in adult male; in immature male and female bill brown, base of lower mandible pale yellow.

The immature birds are just getting their dark feathers on the back.

Common; lives on bauhinia trees when they are in bloom. The heads of some of the above have pollen on them.

The stomach contained fragments of beetles and insects and flesh of figs.

POMATOSTOMUS RUBECULUS (Red-breasted Babbler).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 532.

Three adult males and two females. Parry's Creek, 22nd August, 14th November, 1908.

Iris very pale yellow; feet and legs olive-brown; bill brown, base of culmen and basal half of lower mandible white.

These birds spend most of the day amongst the dense growth on the banks of creeks and waterholes, but are at times found many miles from water.

The stomach contained fragments of insects.

CINCLORHAMPHUS RUFESCENS (Rufous Song-Lark).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 539.

Male. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris brown; feet and tarsi light brown; bill dark brown.

The stomach contained fragments of grasshoppers and other insects.

CISTICOLA EXILIS (Grass-Warbler).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 552.

Two males and two females. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris pale brown; feet and tarsi yellowish-white; bill—upper mandible brown, lower mandible and corner of mouth white.

The stomach contained fragments of small insects.

MALURUS CRUENTATUS (Red-backed Wren).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 608.

Six adult males. Parry's Creek, October, 1908. Six adult females and two immature males, 7/11/08.

Two adult males are in full breeding plumage; the other four are little, if any, different from the adult females. In the ones in breeding plumage the eye is black, feet and tarsi light brown, bill black; in winter plumage the eye is dark brown, feet and tarsi light brown, bill brown, lower mandible fleshy-white; the adult female the same.

The stomach contained fragments of small insects.

These birds feed very late. On the 10th September, when it was nearly dark, I saw a flock of them running along the ground. I could not distinguish the birds, but knew their call, and knew they were feeding because I could hear their bills



snapping as they caught the insects. They have a short, squeaky call when feeding.

ARTAMUS CINEREUS (Grey-breasted Wood-Swallow).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 629.

Five adult males and four females. Parry's Creek, 14th and 23rd October, 1908.

Eyes brown; feet and tarsi leaden-brown; bill pale blue-grey, tip black.

The stomach contained insects and the flesh and seeds of the cultivated fig.

Very common on the plains where there are a few scattered trees. Never found in dense scrub.

The heads have pollen on them.

COLLYRIOCICHLA BRUNNEA (Brown Shrike-Thrush).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 638.

Two males and two females. Parry's Creek, 13-29/8/08.

Iris reddish-brown; feet and legs leaden-brown; bill black in male, pale grey in female.

Common in the scrub country, and a few seen along the creeks.

GRALLINA PICATA (Magpie-Lark).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 646.

Female. Parry's Creek, October, 1908.

Iris very pale yellow; feet black, tarsi blackish-brown; bill—lids of nostril and distal  $\frac{1}{3}$  of culmen brown, balance of bill white.

The stomach contained fragments of grasshoppers and other insects.

PACHYCEPHALA FALCATA (Northern Thickhead).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 672.

Six adult males and seven females. Parry's Creek, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 9th September and 4th and 6th November, 1908.

Iris dark reddish-brown; feet and legs leaden-grey or brown; bill black in male, and brown with base of lower mandible fleshy-grey in female.

Common along the creeks, and also found in the gullies away from the creeks, in patches of scrub. Has a clear, loud whistle, not unlike one call of *Collyriocichla brunnea*.

The stomach contained fragments of insects and a quantity of green vegetable matter.

NEOSITTA LEUCOPTERA (White-winged Tree-runner).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 699.

Five males, two females, and one of doubtful sex. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.



Iris yellow, with pale yellow eyelid ; feet and tarsi yellow ; bill yellow, with tip brownish-black.

The stomach contained fragments of small insects and in one male beetles as well.

**PARDALOTUS RUBRICATUS** (Red-browed Pardalote).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 728.

Adult male and immature male and female. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris pale yellow in adult male ; in immature male and female pale yellow, shading to greyish-yellow on outer edge ; feet and tarsi—adult male pale leaden-grey ; immature male and female pale leaden-blue ; bill—adult male, culmen brown, balance white ; immature male and female, upper mandible brown, with basal half of cutting edge of upper and all lower white.

The stomachs contained—adult male, 3 small white grubs and fragments of small insects ; immature male and female, fragments of small insects.

**PARDALOTUS UROPYGIALIS** (Chestnut-rumped Pardalote).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 730.

Four adult males and three females, immature male, and two young. Parry's Creek, September, 1908.

Iris pale brown ; feet and legs leaden-grey ; bill brown, lower mandible fleshy-white.

They live in the eucalyptus trees, and are difficult to see.

The stomach contained small white grubs.

The tunnel was 2 feet long, and the nest, placed at the end, measured—outside, 5 inches x 5 inches x 2½ inches deep ; inside, 2½ inches x 2½ inches x 1⅜ inches deep.

**MELITHREPTUS ALBIGULARIS** (White-throated Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 734.

Adult male and female, two immature males and four females, and one of doubtful sex.

Iris reddish-brown ; bare skin round the eye grey-blue ; feet and tarsi brown ; bill—black in adults ; blackish-brown, base of lower mandible yellow, corner of mouth creamy-white in immature.

The stomach contained a few insects and some pulp, but I could not determine if animal or vegetable.

**MYZOMELA PECTORALIS** (Banded Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 749.

Two adult males and one female, one immature male and two females. Parry's Creek, 28/9/08.

The immature of both sexes have a yellow wash below the eye, more pronounced in the female. Eyes dark brown ;



feet and tarsi leaden-blue ; bill black, corner of mouth yellow.

The stomachs of all contained fragments of insects.

GLYCYPHILA FASCIATA (White-breasted Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 758.

Two males and two females. Parry's Creek, 5/9/08.

Iris pale reddish-brown ; feet and legs very pale brown ; bill brown, base of lower mandible light brown.

Very common where trees are blooming.

CONOPOPHILA RUFIGULARIS (Red-throated Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 762.

Three males and three females. Parry's Creek, 3-8/9/08.

Iris pale brown ; feet and legs leaden-grey ; bill brown, basal half of lower mandible leaden-grey.

Very common ; often seen in great numbers at a waterhole and on flowering trees. Feeds largely on insects, which are often taken on the wing, in the same manner as the *Microeca*. Bathes while on the wing ; it usually chooses a spot where a bush hangs over the water. The birds fly out a few yards from the bush, flutter their wings in the water, and then fly back and preen their feathers, repeating this many times. A nest placed in a pendent branch of a bauhinia tree, 4 feet from the ground, contained three eggs.

STIGMATOPS OCULARIS (Brown Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 765.

Six adult males and five females. Parry's Creek, 8/10/08.

Eyes grey-brown ; feet and tarsi leaden-blue ; bill brown, base of lower mandible pale brown.

The stomach contained small insects, which might have been native bees, and also beetles.

Very common ; a great number of these birds were seen at a small pool, bathing.

PTILOTIS SONORA (Singing Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 772.

Two males. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris brown ; feet and tarsi pale leaden-blue ; bill black, with corner of mouth yellow.

The stomach contained fragments of a few insects and seeds and skins of a small native berry.

PTILOTIS PLUMULA (Yellow-fronted Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 787.

Three males, six females, and two of doubtful sex. Parry's Creek, 23rd September, 10th October, 1908.



Iris dark brown ; feet and legs leaden-grey ; bill dark brown, basal half of lower mandible and corner of mouth yellow.

The stomach contained a few small insects and some vegetable matter which looked like the petals of white flowers.

*PTILOTIS FLAVESCENS* (Yellow-tinted Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 788.

Three adult males and two females. Parry's Creek, 30/9/08.

Eyes brown ; feet light brown ; bill blackish-brown.

The stomach contained a few small insects.

*PTILOTIS UNICOLOR* (White-gaped Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 795.

Two adult males and three females. Parry's Creek, 12/10/08.

Eyes grey ; feet and tarsi olive-brown ; bill black ; corner of mouth creamy-white.

The stomach contained pieces of flesh and seeds of the small black native fig and other fruit.

Very common.

*ENTOMYZA ALBIPENNIS* (White-quilled Honey-eater).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 815.

Two adult males and one female. Parry's Creek.

Eyes pale yellow, bare skin above the eyes light blue, below very dark blue ; feet and tarsi olive-brown ; bill black, base blue-grey, corner of mouth dark blue.

The stomach contained a few beetles and a quantity of flesh and seeds of the fig.

*TROPIDORHYNCHUS ARGENTICEPS* (Silvery-crowned Friar-Bird).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 816.

Four males and one female. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris, male red, female greyish-brown ; feet brown, tarsi olive-brown ; bill and sides of head black.

The stomach contained fragments of cockroaches, cockchafers, beetles, and insects, and fig seeds.

*MIRAFRA MILLIGANI* (Pale Bush-Lark).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 825.

Four adult females. Parry's Creek, 15/10/08.

Eyes brown ; feet and tarsi fleshy-grey ; bill brown, lower mandible yellowish-white, tip brown.

The stomachs of all contained grass seeds, beetles, and some fresh-water mussel shell and grit.

Common on grassy plains.

*STICTOPTERA ANNULOSA* (Black-ringed Finch).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 833.

Two adult males. Parry's Creek, 15/10/08.



Eyes dark red ; feet and tarsi leaden-blue ; bill pale leaden-blue.

The stomach contained some grass seeds and a little grit.

They have a few notes, which are sung in an undertone when the birds are perched in the bushes. It is hard to be sure of the individual, as they stop when one approaches. At dusk one night I saw five birds fly out of an old nest, which formed a roosting-place.

**POEPHILA PERSONATA** (Masked Finch).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 844.

Adult male and female. Parry's Creek, 30/9/08.

Eyes red ; feet and tarsi red ; bill pale yellow.

The stomach contained grass seeds, all husked.

**ORIOLOUS SAGITTARIUS** (Oriole).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 850.

One male and three females. Parry's Creek, 28th August, 1908.

Iris orange-red ; feet leaden-blue ; bill fleshy-brown.

Common in the dense growth along the creek.

**ORIOLOUS FLAVICINCTUS** (Yellow Oriole).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 851.

Three males and one female. Parry's Creek, 28th August, 3rd September, 1908.

Iris red ; feet leaden-blue ; bill fleshy-brown.

Usually found in pairs along Parry's Creek in the dense growth.

**CHLAMYDODERA NUCHALIS** (Great Bower-Bird).

Math., Handl. B. Austr., No. 863.

Male without nuchal crest. Parry's Creek, November, 1908.

Iris brown ; feet and tarsi olive-brown ; bill blackish-brown, tip brown.

The stomach contained some seeds and pulp of figs and one beetle.

## Notes on the Magpie (*Gymnorhina leuconota*, Gld.) \*

BY ROBERT HALL, C.M.Z.S., COL. MEM. B.O.U.

THE following observations † have been made in the south-east of the continent, and they relate to the species *G. leuconota*, Gould, and what I take to be its variety or sub-species, *G. tibicen*, Latham. In certain areas the sub-species is so fixed as apparently to be a species ; in others the inter-breeding and the specimens showing reversion are so common as to make them

\* See Proc. Roy. Soc. Vic., vol. xiv. (New Series), Part I, pp. 1 to 9 (1901).

† With the assistance of Messrs. G. Graham and J. P. Eckert.





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