

figured the bird in question under the old specific name of *P. magnificus*, and therefore it became quite unnecessary to repeat the description.

2. That on showing the examples to my brother ornithologists, they did not agree with my views of the specific distinctions between the specimens from the two localities, but, like Mr. Gould, considered that it was the same as the New-Guinea bird, and therefore should not be formed into a separate species; and it was entirely out of deference to their opinions that I refrained from committing the MS. to press, for which omission I offer no apology.

The sole object I have in view is to put a statement right which had been, no doubt, inadvertently given by Mr. Elliot incorrectly, and also to express that there have existed, and probably do still exist, doubts as to whether the Northern-Australian *Ptilornis* should be regarded as a *distinct species*, as is shown in the 'Hand-list of Birds.'

Notes on Australian Freshwater Tortoises.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Chelymys Krefftii.

Thorax oblong, scarcely broader behind, very convex. The second, third, and fourth vertebral shields as long as, or rather longer than broad; the second and third nearly square, with only a slight angle near the middle of each side; the fourth contracted behind; the first nearly square, rather broader than long, and rather broader in front. Thorax convex, elevated from the margin, the lateral processes convex. Head large, above olive, with a broad white streak from the back of the orbit to the upper front margin of the tympanum; a broad white streak from the angle of the mouth to the lower part of the tympanum. Beaks very strong and convex. Upper part of neck slightly granular.

Hab. Burnett's River. No. 9, Krefft's MS.

This specimen is coloured very much like the others received from Mr. Krefft, but differs in being oblong and very convex, instead of being broadly ovate and much more depressed, and in the form of the vertebral plates. It also differs in having a much larger head, compared with the size of the body.

It has been suggested that the difference may only be one of sex; but it is very curious that, out of a large series of specimens, this should be the only one of the sex that has come to us.

Chelymys australis.

Hydraspis australis, Gray, in Grey's 'Australia,' t. vi.

The specimen of this genus received from Mr. Gould in 1840 as procured in Australasia, and described and figured by me in Capt. Grey's 'Australia,' t. vi., under the name of *Hydraspis australis*, differs so much, both in its small size, though evidently quite adult, in the form of its dorsal shields, and in the form of its head, from all the species of *Chelymys* that we have since received, that I am inclined to regard it as a distinct species.

Hab. Australasia (Gould, 1840).



Gray, John Edward. 1871. "Notes on Australian freshwater tortoises." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 8, 366.

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