





## ARDETTA MACRORHYNCHA, *Gould.*

### Thick-billed Green Bittern.

*Ardetta macrorhyncha*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., February 22, 1848.

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THE more robust bill, larger head and greater size of this species will at all times distinguish it from *Ardetta stagnatilis* and *A. Javanica*. The only part of Australia from which it has yet been received is the east coast. I myself observed two individuals sitting close to their flat nest on the branch of a mangrove growing on Garden Island near the mouth of the Hunter. It inhabits the mangrove swamps, and assumes all the habits and actions of the *A. stagnatilis*, and like that species feeds upon the crabs and other crustaceans which there abound.

Crown of the head and occipital crest black, with green reflexions; neck, all the upper surface and wing-coverts greenish olive; wing-coverts narrowly margined with deep rufous; primaries and tail slate-grey; spurious wing, secondaries, and all but the three or four external primaries with an irregular triangular-shaped spot at the tip; down the centre of the throat a series of oblong marks of dark brown and white, forming a conspicuous mottled stripe continued on to the breast, where it is lost in the mingled grey and buffy brown of the abdomen; upper mandible dark reddish brown; basal portion of the lower one oil-green; tibiae and hinder part of the tarsi bright yellow; remainder of the legs and feet yellowish brown.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the size of life.



Gould, John. 1848. "Ardetta macrorhyncha, Gould., Thick-billed Green Bittern, [Pl. 66]." *The birds of Australia* 6, -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.313390>.

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