

Description of some Interesting Birds from
the Northern Territory.

BY EDWIN ASHBY.

Amongst a small collection of birds recently collected by Mr. C. E. May at the Union Bore, near Pine Creek, Northern Territory, the following show differences from their nearest allies that are worth noting.

Karua (lalage) leucomela. The three specimens (two male and one female) in the collection have the abdomen and undertail coverts white instead of buff, as in *Karua leucomela rufiventris* (Gray); also the barring is much less pronounced than is the case in specimens of the latter species from Anson Bay in the Northern Territory.

If this inland race be considered worthy of subspecific rank I suggest the name of *Karua leucomela mayi n.s.* (The Pine Creek Caterpillar-eater).

Dulciornis alisteri. The specimens sent by Mr. May of this species are paler, and the crown of the head less darkly striated, and ground colour rufous, not chestnut as in the Melville Island bird. It is evidently a race distinct from the island form, from which I suggest it should be distinguished under the name of *Dulciornis alisteri mayi n.s.* (The Northern Territory Grass Bird).

Pardalotus melanocephalus melvillensis (Mathews). In the specimen sent me by Mr. May the rump is yellow, and not orange as in the Melville Island race, but as some of the specimens from that island in the Adelaide Museum collection show some divergence from the typical orange form I hardly think this race deserves subspecific rank.

Neositta pileata leucoptera (Qld.). There are two specimens of this interesting little bird, one of each sex. I am unable to separate them from the north-western form, *Neositta pileata naperi* (Mathews).

Lewinornis (Pachycephala) rufiventris minor (Zietz). I received two specimens, one male and one female. I concur with Mr. Zietz that it is a good sub-species. The black tail, black ear coverts, and dark rufous breast and abdomen seem to make it a distinct race from either *falcata* (Gould) or *colletti* (Mathews).
