

SUTTON—Some Additions to the South Australian Museum.

Some Additions to the South Australian Museum Collection.

By J. Sutton.

Measurements in centimetres, weights in grammes, except where stated otherwise.

			Sex.	Length.	Spread.	Weight.	
<i>idypsula undina</i>	-	-	♀	43.1	33.4	686	Fairy Penguin
* <i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	-	-	♂	120.3	60.4	1,358	Mallee Fowl
* <i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	-	-	♀	19.5	27.2	.27	Diamond Dove
<i>Erolia acuminata</i>	-	-	♂	22.6	43.1	.70	Sharp-tailed Sand-piper
"	-	-	♀	23.4	42.8	76	"
"	-	-	♀	21.3	41.4	63	"
<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>	-	-	♀	58.5	134.5	855	Whistling Eagle
<i>Falco berigora</i>	-	-	♀	46.0	108.2	565	Brown Hawk
* <i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>	-	-	♂	32.4	44.0	125	Rainbow Lorikeet
"	-	-	♂	33.9	45.2	137.5	"
* <i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>	-	-	♂	25.2	38.6	88	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
<i>Kakatoe leadbeateri</i>	-	-	♂	42.6	86.7	444	"Major Mitchell" Cockatoo
* <i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	-	-	♂	34.3	50.75	75	Princess Parrot
"	-	-	♂	42.9	50.5	120	"
* <i>Platycercus adelaidae</i>	-	-	♂	37.5	50.7	127	Adelaide Rosella
<i>ephotus haematonotus</i>	-	-	♂	29.5	39.2	66	Red-backed Parrot
<i>eophema pulchella</i>	(a)	-	♀	20.4	30.7	28	Turquoise Parrot
"	(b)	-	♀	20.7	30.0	31	"
"	-	-	♀	20.4	30.7	28	"
"	-	-	♀	21.5	31.8	26	"
"	-	-	♀	20.75	31.25	30.2	"
* <i>Neophema splendida</i>	(c)	-	♀	19.7	31.5	23	Scarlet-breasted Parrot
"	(d)	-	♀	25.0	31.8	29	"
"	(e)	-	♀	25.0	32.6	36	"
"	-	-	♀	21.3	32.0	37	"
"	(f)	-	♀	20.9	32.0	32	"
"	(g)	-	♀	21.5	33.1	40	"
* <i>Neophema petrophila</i>	-	-	♀	21.5	34.0	42	Rock Parrot
"	-	-	♀	23.4	33.6	39	"
"	-	-	♂	23.8	34.6	67	"

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	Sex.	Length.	Spread.	Weight.	
* <i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	- ♂	22.0	32.3	34	Blue-winged Parrot
<i>Dacelo gigas</i> (h)	- ♂	34.2	74.0	298	Laughing Kooka- burra
<i>Seisura inquieta</i>	- ♀	20.4	30.6	20	Restless Flycatcher
* <i>Struthidea cinerea</i>	- ♀	32.3	45.4	112	Apostle Bird
* <i>Zonaeginthus oculatus</i>	- ♀	12.8	18.1	10	Red-eared Firetail
* <i>Emblema picta</i>	- ♀	11.2	18.0	11	Painted Finch
"	- ♀	11.5	17.4	8	"
* <i>Steganopleura bichenovii</i>	- ♀	10.8	15.7	7	Double-Bar Finch
* <i>Aidemosyne modesta</i>	- ♂	10.8	15.9	10	Plum-headed Finch
* <i>Poephila acuticauda</i>	- ♀	13.6	18.7	12	Long-tailed Finch
* <i>Poephila cincta</i>	- ♂	11.7	19.6	12	Black-throated Finch
* <i>Poephila gouldiae</i>	- ♂	11.6	20.25	13	Gouldian Finch
"	- ♀	12.0	20.5	19	"
"	- ♀	11.5	14.8	16	"
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	- ♂	18.9	34.0	37	Skylark
* <i>Agapornis fischeri</i>	- ♂	16.0	28.5	34	Fischer's Love-Bird
* <i>Agapornis personata</i>	- ♂	15.5	28.8	35	Masked Love-Bird
* <i>Chrysotis auripalliata</i>	- ♀	41.	75.3	470	Golden-naped Ama- zon
* <i>Lorius flavopalliatus</i>	- ♂	28.5	50.8	124	Yellow-backed Lory
* <i>Urobrachya axillaris</i>	- ♂	43.6	28.6	39	Red-shouldered Whydah
* <i>Tetraenura regia</i>	- ♂	18.3	22.3	13	Shaft-tailed Whydah
* <i>Pyromelana aurea</i>	- ♂	13.0	21.1	14	Golden-backed Weaver
* <i>Liothrix luteus</i>	- ♂	15.3	21.3	14	Pekin Nightingale
* <i>Ptilopus jambu</i>	- ♂	25.3	41.7	111	Jambu Fruit Pigeon
* <i>Stictospiza formosa</i>	- ♂	10.2	14.6	8	Avadavat Waxbill
* <i>Pytelia melba</i>	- ♂	13.0	19.6	14	Melba Finch

*Indicates died in captivity. Ages.—a, 4 to 5 months; b, 8 months; c, 4 months; d, 3 months; e, 12 months; f, 11 months; g, 23 months. h, was found drowned in a dam.

Haliaeetus leucogaster, White-breasted Sea-Eagle. 13th June, 1921.—Died in captivity at Adelaide Zoo. ♂; iris, light brown; bill, plumbeous; legs and feet, white; claws, black; total length, 2 feet 4 inches; span of wings, 5 feet 11 inches.

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Baza cristata, Crested Hawk; from Emu Vale, Q., 4th May, 1934.—♀; iris, yellow; legs and feet, yellowish grey; total length, 17 inches.

Falco peregrinus, Peregrine Falcon.—S. Sanders, of Moorook, S.A., reported on 24th May, 1934, that the bird had been captured by 'a boy whilst it was eating a Magpie (*Gymnorhina* sp.), and was given to Mr. Sanders, who kept it in a cage for two days, when it died. ♂; iris, very dark brown; ring around eye, yellow; legs and feet, yellow; claws, black; bill, upper mandible bluish green, tip, black; lower mandible, anterior half bluish black, posterior half buff; cere, yellow. A great many filarial worms were found in the body cavity.

Neositta pileata, Black-capped Sittella.—♀; total length, 12 cm.; span of wings, 25.5 cm.; weight, 14.2 grammes. This bird, together with two Striated Thornbills (*Acanthiza lineata*) was picked up dead by L. E. Roake beneath a big gumtree alongside the Brown Hill Creek, Mitcham, S.A., on 3rd May, 1934.

Fulica atra, Coot.—Taken on Lake Alexandrina on 23rd June, 1934.—♀; iris, red; total length, 37.7 cm.; span of wings, 61 cm.; weight, 536 grammes.

Cygnus olor, Mute Swan. 16th July, 1934.—Died in captivity at Adelaide Zoo. ♂; total length, 158 cm.; span of wings, 238.4 cm.; weight, 24 lb. av.

Falco longipennis, Little Falcon.—Taken at Dunn's Lagoon, Lake Alexandrina, on 2nd December, 1934. ♂; iris, dark brown; legs and feet, bright yellow; bill, horn colour, upper mandible lighter at base, darker at tip; total length, 30.7 cm.; span of wings, 72 cm.; stomach contents, a small bird; in the body cavity were many worms, which Professor T. Harvey Johnston, M.A., D.Sc., stated "are *Filaria*, perhaps *Filaria guttata*, which has been transferred to *Serratospiculum* (*S. guttata*). The latter is known from some Australian Falcons."

Struthidea cinerea, Apostle Bird. 10th December, 1934.—Died in captivity at the Adelaide Zoo. ♀; total length, 32.3 cm.; span of wings, 45.4 cm.; weight, 112 grammes.

Nycticorax caledonicus, Nankeen Night-Heron.

A bird of this species was found by Mrs. H. Taylor, of 33 Downing Street, Brighton, S.A., near the fish ponds in her garden, early in the morning of 5th October, 1934, when some thirty young fish were missing. The bird could not be driven away,

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and could be approached within three feet; it shook its head a good deal, and used to squat on its feet and tarsus, but was finally captured and given to the South Australian Museum. Another Night-Heron was seen flying about the place by Mrs. Taylor.

Description, taken when the bird was alive:—♂, in adult plumage; general colour above, including the wings and tail, cinnamon, slightly darker on the scapulars and back; edge of wings, white; base of the forehead, and a narrow line of feathers over and round the eye as far as the bare skin in front of the eye, whitish, tinged with very light cinnamon; sides of the head and neck, pale cinnamon, slightly darker on the back of the neck; crown of the head and nape, black, the feathers on the head can be erected like a crest when the bird seems angry; from the occiput extend the three whitish plumes with some light cinnamon mottlings along their length—the three plumes overlap and appear as one; forepart of cheeks, white, slightly tinged with pale cinnamon; chin and all the under-surface, white; the sides of the fore-neck washed with pale cinnamon; axillaries and under wing-coverts, white, some of the larger coverts washed with pale cinnamon at their tips; under tail-coverts, white; iris, pale ochre; a large cobalt-blue patch of bare skin between the front of the eye and the base of the upper mandible; a narrow ring of bare skin around the eye, greenish yellow, and a very narrow edging of black showing on the innermost edge of that ring; bill, dark horn colour; lower mandible, a little lighter in colour, the point fitting into a notch in the upper mandible, but 1 cm. shorter in length than the latter (the upper mandible seems overgrown at the joint just beyond the notch, when compared with other specimens in the South Australian Museum); legs and feet, *bright pink*; nails, dark horn colour. Measurements—total length, 62.5 cm.; span of wings, 109.25; culmen, 8.75; tibia, 12.5; tarsus, 7.75; middle toe and claw, 9; weight, 688 grammes. Lengths of plumes—top, 17.75 with black tip; middle, 20.5 with darkish tip; lowest, 19.5 with darkish tip.

Tyto alba, Barn-Owl, ♂, 11th July, 1934.—This bird was flying about, and resting on, the aviaries of Mrs. F. Bassé, Medindie, S.A., and frightening the birds in captivity. It was driven away a few times, but kept returning, so was ultimately destroyed and sent to the South Australian Museum. Plate II shows the conch or external ear (also termed elevated flap, operculum, or ear-valve), which measured 8 by 28 mm., and was of a whitish flesh colour. The conch was erect when the bird

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was received, was very flexible, and was easily pressed down over the opening, which it appeared to close, but whether it is used for that purpose in life it is impossible of course to say. In the erect form it would no doubt assist the bird in catching the slightest sound from its prey. In the pellets ejected from the mouth by a bird of this species the following contents were identified by A. M. Lea ("S.A. Journal of Agriculture," pp. 938-943, 1922), mice, rats, bats, young rabbits, sparrows, starlings, blackbirds, little crakes, chestnut-eared finches, goldfinch, grass-bird (?), jacky winter, yellow-winged honeyeater, small lizards, frogs, large night-flying moths, crickets (three species), grasshopper, katydid, cockroach, mantes, beetles (four species). In the "Wilson Bulletin," Vol. XLVI, p. 140, 1934, Thomas Mason Earl, "Observations on Owls in Ohio," writes:—"Speaking of the feet of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba pratincola*), does everyone know that the feathers on the front of the Barn Owl's tarsus run downward, but on the rear of the tarsus run upward?" On examining the specimens of the Australian species of *Tyto alba* in the S.A. Museum, I find that the tarsi are feathered as Mr. Earl describes.

Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*) killed by a Centipede (*Scolopendra subspinipes*).

On 16th November, 1934, an immature Musk Duck was sent in from the Zoological and Acclimatization Society's Gardens. Mr. R. R. Minchin, Acting Director, wrote as follows:—"The bird was caught at the Finnis River on 11th instant, and for a couple of days after its capture it would peck violently at the hand whenever it was touched, without, however, being capable of doing any harm. I was unable to get it to eat anything but meal worms and earth worms, and the former were its diet until I managed to get some yabbies. By this time it was perfectly tame, and several times a day I would place it in a tub of water, and there give its food. I might say that it was exceedingly interesting to watch it cleaning itself and gambolling in the water. Just before it died I had given it three chopped-up yabbies, and as it was still obviously hungry and looking for food, I went away to find some earth worms, and whilst looking for them I came across a centipede about four inches long. I killed the centipede—or thought I had killed it—and gave it to the Musk Duck, which went for it eagerly. Having taken about one-and-a-half inches of the insect into its mouth, it suddenly began to shake its head, and

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as it seemed in difficulties, I removed the thing with a stick. It would not attempt to eat the centipede again, so I lifted the bird out of the water and placed it in its sleeping cage. Immediately I saw that there was something the matter with it, as it endeavoured to stand several times, but only managed to jerk its body and neck, and two minutes after it had been taken from the water it rolled over and died. The space of time between its being given the centipede and its death could not have been more than four minutes, or five minutes at the longest."

Description.—Immature ♀; the head, neck, and body generally, covered with down of a smoky-brown colour; the scapulars and sides of the body, feathers black, with narrow cross lines of grey; breast has short white feathers, which have replaced most of the down; and on the abdomen the down mainly shows, but the white feathers have commenced to appear in places; tail, brownish black, the quills black above, white below; iris, hazel; bill, upper mandible black, neb, greyish pink; lower mandible, base black, apical part pinkish yellow, the cutting edge (tomium) pinkish yellow; a leather-like black lobe depends from the membrane on the under side of the lower mandible; inside mouth, flesh colour; legs, feet (which are webbed), claws, and soles, dark slate; hind toe with a black depending lobe; total length, 35.25 cm.; wing spread, 20 cm.; wing, 7.5; culmen, 2.75; tarsus, 3.0; middle toe and claw, 5.5; lobe under lower mandible, length, 1.75, depth, 0.75 cm.; lobe under hind toe, length, 1 cm., depth, 0.5 cm.; weight, 309 grammes.

The bite of a centipede is poisonous, but the action of the poison in this instance seems to have been very quick.

Kakatoe leadbeateri, Pink Cockatoo (Major Mitchell), "Wee Juggler."

North, in "Nests and Eggs of Birds Breeding in Australia and Tasmania," Vol. III, p. 81, 1912, wrote thus regarding *Cacatua leadbeateri*, Leadbeater's Cockatoo:—"The inland portions of the southern half of the Australian continent constitutes the stronghold of the present species, more familiarly known as the "Major Mitchell," or by the popular name of "Wee Juggler."

In the Proceedings of the Committee of the Zoological Society, London, p. 61, 1831, it is stated that at the meeting of

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April 26, 1931, "Mr. Vigors exhibited from the collection of Mr. Leadbeater an undescribed species of Cockatoo, from New Holland, and pointed out its distinctive characters" . . . He named it *Plyctolophus leadbeateri*. Leadbeater was a London dealer, and N. A. Vigors was the Secretary to the Zoological Society, London.

The Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia, 1926, stated that Cuvier, in 1800, had named the genus *Kakatoe*, so under the law of priority all later generic names had to give way to that allotted by Cuvier, amongst those rejects were the two above mentioned given by Vieillot—*Plyctolophus* in 1816, and *Cacatua* in 1817.

This species is styled now in the Checklist *Kakatoe leadbeateri*, Pink Cockatoo (Major Mitchell). The latter name evidently refers to the well-known explorer, Major (later Sir) Thomas L. Mitchell, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, who met with the species in his expeditions in 1832 and 1836 into the interior of Eastern Australia.

The name, Major Mitchell, is that commonly used in South Australia for the bird. It is rarely alluded to as the Pink Cockatoo. I have never seen an explanation of the term Wee Juggler, but recently I came across the following, which possibly may account for it:—In the "Australian Race," by Edward Curr, Vol. III, p. 366, 1887, amongst some English words with the aboriginal equivalents from the Wiiratheri or Wiraduri language at Yooabba, commonly spelt Uabba, on the Lachlan River, New South Wales, is—"Darling Cockatoo, or *Plyctolophus leadbeateri*—*wi-jug-a-la*." Uabba is thirty-five miles in a direct line N.E. of Hillston.

The species has been recorded in South Australia from:—Kalamurina (Diamantina River); Innamincka; Cuttapirie; Lake Goolangirie; between Cordillo Downs and Innamincka; Pungonda; Taplan; near Renmark; Sutherlands (1875); between Morgan and Blanchetown; Florieton; near Yunta; between Kingoonya and Wilgena; near Tarcoola; Wynbring; Ooldea Soak; Coralbignie; Nonning; Wippippee Rocks; Yardea, Donald's Plain; Narlaby Well; Narlaby Tanks; thirteen miles north-west of Kimba; White Well; Wilcherry; between Koonibba and Wirrulla; between Wirrulla and Yardea; between Yalata and Fowler's Bay.

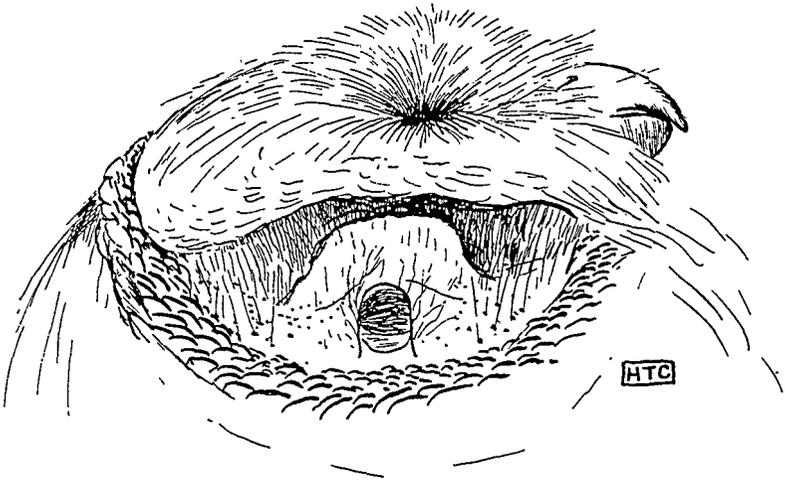


Plate II.—Conch or External Ear of the Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*).
Natural size.

Nine white hairs around the opening are not shown in the drawing.

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A Fresh-water Mussel (*Hyridella australis*) attached to a Duck's Foot (*Anas* sp.).

On 5th July, 1934, "Vox," of the Adelaide "Advertiser," brought to the S.A. Museum a foot of a duck, said to be that of a Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), with a mussel attached to the inner toe. Mr. Bernard C. Cotton, Conchologist of the Museum, identified the mussel as above stated, and added that it was alive on receipt. It measured $2\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and, on being taken from the jar of methylated spirits, weighed $4\frac{3}{4}$ ounces. The paragraphs in "Vox's" column are interesting:—On 6th July, with block—"Here is a novelty in the game realm sent me yesterday by Mr. N. Cameron, manager of Woorattonbully Station, Comaam, via Naracoorte, S.A., who explains it thus:—"Dear Vox. While having our final shoot of the season, among the 'bag' was a Black Duck with a large clam fish weighing $3\frac{1}{4}$ oz. fastened to its foot. At first we thought, when the Duck was flying over with its foot hanging, that it had been wounded, but later, when the bird was shot, we discovered the reason. We would like to know whether this is a fresh or salt water species of clam fish, as I have never seen anything like it in the fresh water lagoons round these parts before. The nearest point to the coastline is about seventy miles, and the Coorong is distant about 120 miles." And on the 26th July, 1934, "Vox" wrote:—"Early this month Mr. N. Cameron . . . was puzzled to know where the mussel came from. . . . I met Mr. Jim Marshall yesterday, and he solved the problem. He owns Mageppa, the adjoining station. 'There are two swamps on my place, which never go dry,' he said, 'and we can get bag-loads of mussels there. I have the English mallard (*Anas boschas*) on my place, and I think the bird that was shot was a crossbred.' I told Mr. Marshall that that statement would interest some of the Museum experts, who, when they saw the foot, doubted whether it was that of a wild Black Duck. . . ."