

## GRAY—Hoary-headed Grebes and Brown Bittern.

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By James T. Gray, Orroroo.

The three following birds were brought to me, so I have no other information than can be obtained from measurements and plumage:—

*Podiceps poliocephalus*, Hoary-headed Grebe, ♀, 12/4/1932.—Head, top, slaty black with fine white hair-like plumes, but not sufficient to make their appearance marked except on close inspection; under, light oyster grey; side of face, upper not so dark as top of head, lower light oyster grey; the dark top of head ending at beginning of neck; neck, back dark grey, front silvery grey; back dark grey, feathers tipped light grey, giving a scalloped appearance; under silvery grey; wings with white patch, primaries brown; bill, upper mandible distal part dark, lower half light colour, lower mandible light colour; feet green. No measurements taken.

♂, 4/2/1935.—Head, top, black but appearing striated from long white hair-like plumes; back glossy black, a sharp division of colour between back of head and neck; face, under dark brown, sides, heavily adorned with white hair-like plumes; neck, back brown, the colour deepening towards the back, under fawn; back brown, the colour deepening from neck to tail, the feathers with fine margin of tip of lighter shade giving scalloped appearance; wings with white patch, primaries brown; iris yellow; bill both mandibles black but lower with orange at tip; pharynx flesh colour; feet green; total length 31 cm.; wing spread 46 cm.; intestinal parasites, cestoda (tape worms).

*Botaurus poiciloptilus*, Brown Bittern, ♂, 9/3/1935.—Back of head, general appearance dark brown streaked with very light brown, the feathers having the light brown down the centre; back of neck and back, continues same pattern but the light brown centre widening out as the feathers become larger, ending with the largest feathers of back with the brown so light that it is almost a white, and this colour broadening out very much at the tip of the feathers, and giving the body a mottled appearance. The general appearance of the whole of the back thus being from the head dark brown striped light brown (buff) passing to a mottled dark brown and very light brown; front, under chin white; under neck, the feathers are almost white with an edging of dark brown; front of neck, the feathers are

full giving a bushy bearded appearance. but not as full as in the coloured plate in Leach's "An Australian Bird Book"; abdomen white streaked dark brown; under tail white, top of tail, cinnamon brown at base of feathers ending in a bar of dark brown and tipped white; wings, primaries cinnamon brown, upper surface of feathers dark brown almost black, under surface lighter and blotched with black, the feathers with suggestion of tipped white; secondaries, similar but decidedly tipped white; coverts cinnamon brown, barred dark brown, tipped white; iris yellow; bill, top, black; under horn-colour; legs and feet green; pharynx flesh colour; total length 60 cm.; wing spread 94 cm.; the bird threw up a large frog and a medium sized yabbie (*Parachaeraps bicarinatus*); stomach contents, two yabbies; parasites, one tapeworm and three round worms (nematodes ?).

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