

Birds of the
North and North-West of Australia.

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., M.B.O.U.

No. 5.

No. 258—Female. Length, 14.1 inches (2/9/86).

Irides, orange yellow; upper mandible, rather bright light green at the base, and gradually shading into bright olive green for the remainder of its length; lower mandible, dull coral red at the base, becoming olive green towards the tip; legs and feet, red.

No. 526—Female. (7/11/86)

28. PORPHYRIO MELANOTUS NEOMELANOTUS. Northern Bald Coot.

Porphyrio melanotus neomelanotus (Mathews). Birds Austr., Vol. I., p. 246, pl. 60, 1911. Parry's Creek, North-west Australia.

No. 243—Male. Length, 17.5 inches (13/7/86).

No. 245—Female. Length, 17.5 inches (13/7/86).

No. 249—Male. Length, 18.8 inches (31/8/86).

Irides, red; bill and frontal plate, deep red; legs and feet, flesh colour, with the scales on all the joints of an olive grey colour.

No. 344—Male. Length, 18.8 inches (18/9/86).

Irides, hazel; bill and frontal plate, red, passing with brown at the tip of the bill; legs and feet salmon colour, darker or of a grey tint at the joints.

29. *FULICA ATRA AUSTRALIS*. Western Coot.

Fulica australis (Gould). Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.), 1845, p. 2. West Australia.

No. 363—Male. Length, 15.6 inches (24/9/86).

No. 361—Female. Length, 14.6 inches (24/9/86).

29. *PODICEPS CRISTATUS CHRISTIANI*. Tippet Grebe.

Podiceps cristatus christiani (Mathews). Birds Austr., Vol. I., p. 267, pl. 64, 1911. Victoria.

No. 360—Female. Length, 20.8 inches (24/9/86).

Shot in a large pool about two hundred yards across and some three hundred long, with clear water in the centre, but with thick weeds for some fifteen yards round the side, which weeds grow below the surface of the water.

30. *TACHYBAPTUS RUFICOLLIS PARRYI*. North-western Black-throated Grebe.

Podiceps fluviatilis parryi (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 197. 1912, Parry's Creek, North-west Australia.

No. 231—Male. Length, 10.9 inches (12/7/86).

No. 232—Female. Length, 10 inches (12/7/86).

No. 333—Female. Length, 10.4 inches (30/7/86).

Irides, a fine line round the pupil bright white, succeeded by a broad one of pale ochre, minutely freckled with black; upper mandible, olive brown along the culmen, yellowish-white on the sides from under the nostrils to the gape, where the yellow becomes lighter; bluish horn on the sides from the nostrils to the tip, which is white; lower mandible yellowish-white, tinged with brown at the tip, base and skinny parts greenish yellow; legs and feet, dark olive, much tinged with yellow on the inside of the tarsi and on the broad webs of the toes.

No. 337—Male. Length, 11.1 inches (30/7/86).

No. 338—Female. Length, 10.3 inches (30/7/06).

No. 339.—Female. Length, 10.1 inches (30/7/06).

No. 515—Female. Length, 10 inches (5/11/86).

They are wonderfully quick, and seem to dive at the flash of the gun, as one often hits the very spot where they were. They show very little of the body when swimming, and often sink bodily, gradually, and not in any way disturbing the water, but without any of the splash or kick-up which is general when they dive.

45. GELOCHELIDON NILOTICA MACROTARSA. Gull-billed Tern.

Sterna macrotarsa (Gould). Synops., Birds Austr., Pt. ii., pl. 37. 1837, Victoria.

No. 204—Male. Length, 16.9 inches (28/6/86).

Irides, dark brown; bill and feet, black.

This bird had several grasshoppers in its stomach.

48. STERNULA ALBIFRONS TORMENTI. Western White-shafted Ternlet.

Sterna sinensis tormenti (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 210, 1912. Point Torment.

No. 127—Female. Length, 10.9 inches (14/6/86).

No. 178—Female. Length 9 inches (24/6/86).

55. ERYTHROGONYS CINCTUS MIXTUS. Western Red-kneed Dotterel.

Erythrogonys cinctus mixtus (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 215, 1912. Parry's Creek, North-west Australia.

No. 119—Immature. Length, 7.4 inches.

No. 120—Female. Length, 7.5 inches.

No. 121—Female. Length, 7.5 inches.

Irides, dark brown; bill, black; base of lower mandible, reddish flesh colour; tibia and knee, flesh colour; tarsus and feet, bluish grey.

No. 122—Male. Length, 7.5 inches (12/6/86).

No. 177—Male. Length, 7.4 inches (24/6/86).

No. 300—Male. Length, 7.8 inches (10/9/86).

Bill, black, with basal two-thirds of lower mandible rose pink, of which colour there is a line in front of the nostrils on the upper mandible; tibia and tarsal joints, rose pink; tarsi and feet, bluish lead.

56. LOBIBYX MILES PERSONATA. Lesser marked Plover.

Lobivanellus personatus (Gould). *Birds Austr.*, Vol. VI., pd. 10, 1842.. Coburg Peninsula.

No. 131—Female. Length, 13.4 inches (15/6/86).

Irides, wattles, and bill, lemon yellow; tip of the bill, brown; tibia, fleshy red; legs and feet, reddish flesh colour, with the scales reddish brown; spurs on the wing, yellow.

They arrived near Derby on the 14th June, and were found about the lagoon.

No. 136—Male (immature). Length, 13.2 inches (16/6/86).

No. 138—Male. Length, 13.5 inches (16/6/86).

No. 217—Female. Length, 12.2 inches (2/7/86).

No. 226—Female. Length, 13.6 inches (28/8/86).

No. 300—Female. Length, 13.3 inches (21/7/86).

60. ELSEYA MELANOPS RUSSATA. Western Black-fronted Dotterel.

Charadrius russatus (Gerdon). *Madras Journ. Lit. Soc.*, Vol. XII., p. 213, 1840. India.

No. 196—Female. Length, 6.7 inches (27/6/86).

Irides, brown; eyelids, coral red; bill, orange at the base, black at the tips; legs and feet, fleshy yellow.

No. 230. Length, 6.4 inches (7/7/86).

No. 317—Female. Length, 6.6 inches (14/9/86).

Irides, dark brown; eyelids, fleshy, and of a vermilion colour; bill, reddish flesh at the basal two-thirds, remainder black; legs and feet, flesh colour.

No. 414—Male. Length, 5 inches.

Eggs found 19/10/86, in a slight hollow in the sand on a spot running out into the river.

No. 431—Male. Length, 6.3 inches (24/10/86).

No. 440. Length, 6.1 inches.

Eye-lids, brownish olive; bill, olive at base, passing into dark brown at the tip; legs and feet, flesh colour.

No. 441. Length, 6.1 inches. Same as above.

61. HIMANTOPUS LEUCOCEPHALUS ASSIMILIS. Northern White-headed Stilt.

Hypsiobates leucocephalus assimilis (Mathews). *Nov. Zool.*, Vol. XVIII., p. 219, 1913. Parry's Creek, North-west Australia.

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- No. 128—Female. Length, 12.5 inches (14/6/06).
Irides, dark reddish brown; bill, black; legs and feet, pink, with a bluish tinge at the joints.
- No. 180—Female. Length, 14 inches (25/6/86).
Bill, black, lighter at the base of the lower mandible.
- No. 203—Female. Length, 14.1 inches (28/6/86).
- No. 253—Female. Length, 14.4 inches (1/9/86).
Irides, red; bill, black; legs and feet, pink, inside of the tibia and tarsi with a narrow stripe of a light lilac.
- No. 434—Male. Length, 14.4 inches (25/10/86).
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