

Birds of the
North and North-West of Australia.

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No. 6.

62. *RECURVIROSTRA NOVÆHOLLANDIÆ*. Red-necked Avocat.

Recurvirostra novæhollandiæ (Vieillot). Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., Vol. III., p. 103, 1816, Victoria.

No. 179—♀. Length, 16.4 inches (25/6/86).

Irides, brown, but not much seen, the pupil being large; bill—upper mandible, black; lower, very dark brown; bases lighter where they are tinged with slate colour, the extreme tips very light brown, almost transparent. Feet and webs, delicate lavender; claws, dark brown. The extreme points of the bill bend downwards.

No. 318—♂. Length, 18 inches.

Irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; feet and legs, lavender.

No. 319—♀. Length, 17.3 inches. Same as above (15/9/86).

No. 320—♀. Length, 16.5 inches. Same as above (15/9/86).

64. *LIMOSA LIMOSA MELANUROIDES*. Eastern Black-tailed God-wit.

Limosa melanuroides (Gould). Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.), 1846, p. 84, Port Essington, Northern Territory.

No. 364—♂. Length, 13.4 inches (25/9/86).

Irides, brown; bill, brown, passing into yellowish white at the base of the lower mandible, and becoming dark horn at the base and tip of the upper; tibia and tarsi, slaty black; feet, fine warm brown of a rich shade.

65. *TLIORNIS STAGNATILIS HORSFIELDII*. Little Green Shank.
Limosa horsfieldii (Sykes). Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.), 1832,
p. 163. Dukhun, India.
No. 358—♀. Length, 8.9 inches (22/9/86).
66. *ACTITIS HYPOLEUCUS AURITA*. Eastern Common Sandpiper.
Tringa aurita (Latham). Index, Ornith. Suppl., p. LXVI.,
1801. New South Wales.
No. 340—♂. Length, 8.2 inches (17/9/86).
Irides, dark brown; bill, olive brown, lightest at the base
of lower mandible.
Its habits are identical with its European ally.
68. *GLOTTIS NEBULARIUS GLOTTOIDES*. Eastern Green Shank.
Totanus glottoides (Vigors). Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.),
1831, p. 173. Himalaya Mountains, India.
No. 173—♀. Length, 13.4 inches (23/6/86).
Irides, dark brown; bill, brown, becoming lighter and
tinged with slate colour from half its length to the base; legs
and feet, dirty greenish colour, the green being most con-
spicuous on the tibia.
No. 182— . Length, 13 inches (25/6/86).
No. 183—♂. Length, 12.8 inches (26/6/86).
70. *PISOBIA DAMACENSIS*. Long-toed Stint.
Totanus damacensis (Horsfield). Trans. Linn. Soc. (Lond.),
Vol. XIII., p. 192, 1821. Java.
No. 362—♂. (24/9/86). The length could not be taken
as the head was twisted off.
This bird now in my collection is the only record of this
species having been shot in Australia.
70. *LIMNOCINCLUS ACUMINATUS*. Sharp-tailed Stint.
Totanus acuminatus (Horsfield). Trans. Linn. Soc.
(Lond.), Vol. XIII., p. 192, 1821. Java.
No. 323—♂. Length, 8.9 inches (15/9/86).
No. 325—♂. Same as above.
No. 365—♀. Length, 8.3 inches (25/9/86).

72. SUBSPILURA MEGALA. Larger Pin-tailed Snipe.

Gallinago megala (Swinhoe). Ibis, 1861, p. 343. Pekin, China.

No. 531—♂. Length, 11.4 inches (9/11/86).

The bird was sitting close to the ground, with his bill touching, and looked much like a piece of dirt. It gave forth no note on rising.

Irides, brown; bill, olive, dark brown on terminal portion; legs and feet, light yellowish olive.

73. ROSTRATULA AUSTRALIS. Painted Snipe.

Rhynchaca australis (Gould). Synops. Birds Austr., Pt. IV., App. p. 6, 1838. New South Wales.

No. 289—♀. Length, 10.8 inches (19/7/86).

Irides, fine brown; eyelid, dark brown; bill, olive on its basal half, shading with brownish yellow, and tipped with horn colour, the skin between the fork of the lower mandible pale green; legs and feet, pale sepia green.

No. 290—♀. Length, 10.7 inches (19/7/86).

Irides, brown; eyelid, brown; bill, olive brown for its basal half, passing into dark brown for the remainder of its length; the skin between the fork of the lower mandible greenish white; legs and feet, greenish white.

74. STILTIA ISABELLA. Australian Pratincole.

Glarcola isabella (Vieillot). Analyse Nouv. Ornith., p. 69, 1816, Australia.

No. 224—♀. Length, 8.7 inches (28/8/86).

No. 225—♂. Length, 8.2 inches (28/8/86).

No. 252—♂. Length, 8.4 inches (31/8/86).

Irides, brown; bill, coral red from the base to pass the nostrils, remainder brown; legs and feet, brown.

Although a regular desert bird, round Derby (Monkey Jarra) it frequented the land adjoining the swamps.

No. 302—♀. Length, 8.1 inches (22/7/86).

Irides, brown; bill, fleshy red for its basal half, black for the remainder of its length; legs and feet, brown.

No. 327—♂. Length, 8.1 inches (16/9/86).

No. 328—♂. Length, 8.4 inches (16/9/86).

76. *BURHINUS MAGNIROSTRIS RUFESCENS*. Little Stone Plover.

Burhinus magnirostris rufescens (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 225, 1912, Parry's Creek, North-west Australia.

No. 439—♂. Length, 21.8 inches (25/10/86).

Irides, yellow, mottled with dark brown or black on the outer circle; bill, black, lighter at the base of the lower mandible; legs and feet, dirty greenish white, with a slight tinge of light brown on the feet.

77. *THRESKIORNIS MOLUCCA STRICTIPENNIS*. White Ibis.

Ibis strictipennis (Gould). Synops. Birds Austr., pl. IV., App. p. 7, 1838, New South Wales.

No. 387—♀. Length, 25.7 inches (8/8/86)

No. 391—♀. Length, 26.9 inches (9/8/86).

Irides, dark brown; bill and the naked skin on the head, and neck, black; the sides of the basal portion of the upper and lower mandibles mottled with whitish horn colour, these markings are chiefly noticeable on the upper mandible; tarsi, purplish brown, with some irregular spots of pink at the joint; tibia, pink on the upper portion, with purplish brown marks on the sides and back, lower portions brown, some of the scales showing pinkish; toes, black, with a purplish tint at the base. Younger birds have not the mottled appearance on the bill, and the pink colouring of the tibia is confined to the upper part. They are wild birds and difficult to get within range of. Grasshoppers and beetles form their chief food, and sometimes the fat is a quarter of an inch thick in places.

No. 446—♂. Length, 30.5 inches (26/10/86).

Irides, brown; bill and skin on head and neck, black, across the nape and hind neck are numerous marks of pink, which give those parts the appearance of having been freshly cut between the folds of the skin; on top of the head a number of similar, but smaller, marks arranged regularly, and of a paler colour; front of tibia, knee joint, back of the tarsus, under surface, and sides of the toes, their joints and at their

junction with the tarsus, slate black, remainder of the tibia, tarsus, and toes, rose pink; skin along the bones of the wings, blood red.

Another bird had irides, dark brown; bill, black, freckled with brown at the base of the upper mandible; naked skin on the face, black; tibia, pink, becoming darker at the joint; tarsus, dark purple; toes, black. The black of the toes seems gradually to pass into the purple of the tarsus, which colour again gradually becomes the pink of the tibia.

78. *CARPHTLUS SPINICOLLIS*. Straw-necked Ibis.

Ibis spinicollis (Jamerson). Edin: New Philos. Journ., Vol. XIX., p. 213, 1835, New South Wales.

No. 164—♀. Length, 26.8 inches (21/6/86).

Irises, dark brown; bill, face, and feet, black; flesh-coloured spots on the tibia.

On stalking these birds four were noticed posted, to give warnings of danger, on the highest trees. On firing a gun they all rise from the damp grass. It seems to fly easily, often soaring hawk-fashion in the air.

78. *PLEGADIS FALCINELLUS*. Glossy Ibis.

Tantalus falcinellus (Linne). Syst. Nat., ed. XII., p. 241, 1766, Australia.

No. 234—♀. Length, 19 inches (12/7/86).

No. 235—♂. Length, 22.3 inches (12/7/86).

No. 361—♀. Length, 20.5 inches (3/8/86).

Irises, dark brown; lores and eyelids, nearly black, tinged with bluish lead colour where the feathers of the head and cheeks begin; bill—upper mandible, dark brown on the culmen as far as the nostrils, the remainder of the upper mandible light olive brown, which becomes darker at the tip; under mandible, light olive brown, darker at the base, but lighter and tinged with flesh colour on the fork; legs and feet, black, becoming brown on the upper parts of the tibia.

78. *SPHATHERODIA REGIA*. Black-billed Spoonbill.

Platalea regia (Gould). Synops. Birds Austr., Pt. IV., App. p. 7, 1838, New South Wales.

No. 148—♂. Length, 30.4 inches (17/6/86).

Irides, scarlet; bill, slate colour, mottled with black as far as the nostrils, above which it is black; lower mandible, black at the base, slate colour at the point; naked skin of the face and throat, black, except a superciliary stripe over each eye and a triangular mark on the top of the head between the eyes, the former marks being bright yellow, and the latter blood red; feet and legs, black.

They walk quickly through the water, with the bill a little more than half under, and at each step sway from side to side somewhat after the style of a sower. The mandibles are for the majority of the time kept a little open. Their flight seems heavy, particularly when turning. They are fairly silent. The windpipe runs the length of the sternum, and turns and then goes forward before entering the lungs. Wounded birds while walking make about in the same way as they do when feeding, constantly putting the tip of the bill down on the ground.

No. 418—♂. Length, 31 inches (21/10/86).

79. ZENORHYNCHUS ASIATICUS AUSTRALIS. Black-necked Stork.

Mysteria australis (Shaw). Trans. Linn. Soc. (Lond.), Vol. V., p. 23, 1800, New South Wales.

No. 174—♀. (23/6/86.)

Length, from tip to tip of wing, 6 feet 8 inches; from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail, 4 feet 2½ inches; from the tip of the bill to the end of the toes, 5 feet 5½ inches; weight, 9 lbs.

Irides, fine yellow; eyelash, black; bill, black; inside of the mouth, salmon colour, deeper towards the front; the skin between the fork of the lower mandible, black, irregularly marked with red, giving it somewhat the appearance of cuts; legs and feet, coral red.

When fishing they catch fair-sized ones, from five to seven inches long. Those that were lengthways soon were swallowed, but those that got across the mandible required more care, and by the opening and closing of the bill and sundry jerks they would be placed head first, and then were swallowed. During the intervals the bird would walk about quietly, but when anything caught its eye it would indulge in a short run, and then stop suddenly. When flying the head, neck, and legs are stretched out to their full extent. They

are a silent bird, and their flight is slow and graceful, taking from four to a dozen flaps it holds its wings out, and sails for a short time. It rises from the water without difficulty, and mounts high in a series of circles, but of not such a size as one would expect.

81. *HERODIAS ALBA SYRMATOPHORA.* White Egret.

Herodias immaculata (Gould). *Birds Austr.*, Vol. VI., Pt. 58, 1846, Port Essington.

No. 522—♂. Length, 24.5 inches (7/11/86).

Irides, straw-yellow; gape, lore, and cere, light yellow; upper mandible, as far as the posterior margins of the nostrils on the culmen and for a short distance behind them on the sides, black; on the culmen over the nostrils and on the cutting edges just below them are marks of indistinct yellow; lower mandible, with apical third and cutting edges, very dark brown, almost black; remainder pale yellow, brightest posteriorly, and shading into whitish horn anteriorly; inside of tibia, inside and back of tarsus, soles of feet and of toes, pale yellowish green; remainder of feet and legs (except on the outside of the tibia, where there is a short greenish stripe), black; claws, dark brown.

81. *HERODIAS ALBA SYRMATOPHORA.* White Egret.

Herodias syrmatophorus (Gould). *Birds Austr.*, Vol. VI., Pt. 56, 1846, New South Wales.

No. 421—♂. Length, 24.9 inches (22/10/86).

Irides, very pale yellow; eyelid, yellow; lores and skin surrounding the eye, yellow, posteriorly shaded with green, which colour is deepest under the eyes; bill, orange, with the tip of the upper mandible horn coloured; legs and feet, black, with a patch of greenish yellow on the inside of the tibia and on the sole of the foot.

No. 429—♂. Length, 38.9 inches (23/10/86).

Similar to the above, but with more yellowish colour on the tibia.

82. *NOTOPHOYX NOVAEHOLLANDIAE.* White-fronted Heron.

Ardea novae-hollandiae (Latham). *Index, Ornith.*, Vol. II., p. 701, 1790, New South Wales.

No. 201—♀. Length, 24.5 inches. Wings, from tip to tip, 3 feet 4½ inches; from tip of the bill to the end of the toes, 2 feet 6 inches. (27/6/86).

Eyelash, yellowish white; orbital space and lores, bluish lead colour, tinged in front of the eye with mealy yellow; bill—upper mandible, very dark brown; lower mandible, dark brown at the tip and along the cutting edge to the base; sides of lower for two-thirds from the base, whitish horn, shading into the brown of the special third; the skin between the forks of the lower mandible, yellowish white; end of gap, yellow; legs and feet, yellow, with a greenish shade, some of the scales on the lower part of the tarsus and on the top of the middle toe, greenish brown.

No. 210—♀. Length, 24 inches (30/6/86).

Irides, dull yellow tinge; orbital space and eyelash, greenish yellow; lores, lead colour, slightly tinged with yellow posteriorly; bill—upper mandible, black, becoming lighter at the base on the cutting edge; lower mandible, dark brown on the apical third, which colour continues along the cutting edge to the base, remainder of lower mandible, whitish horn colour; legs and feet, dull yellow, with a greenish tinge; some of the scales on the lower part of the tarsus in front and on top of the middle toe, olive brown.

No. 350—♀. Length, 23.3 inches (31/7/06).

82. *MYOLA PACIFICA.* White-necked Héron.

Ardea pacifica (Latham). Index Ornith. Suppl., p. LXV., 1801, New South Wales.

No. 156—♀. Length, 31.8 inches (20/6/86).

Irides, light yellow; bare space round the eye, green; lores, black, with a triangular-shaped mark of green at the base of the upper mandible; bill, black, yellowish white on the under part of the lower mandible.

No. 321—♀. (15/9/86). Irides, light greenish yellow; legs and feet, black.

No. 386—♀. Length, 31 inches (8/8/86).

83. *NYCTICORAX CALEDONICUS AUSTRALASIAE.* Night Heron.

Ardea australasiae (Vieillot). Tabl. Ency. Meth. Ornith., Vol. III., p. 1.130, 1823, New South Wales.

No. 219—♂. Length, 23 inches (26/8/86).

No. 301—♀. Length, 23.5 inches (10/9/86).

86. DUPETOR FLAVICOLLIS OLIVEI. Northern Yellow-necked Bittern.

Ardeiralla flavicollis olivei (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 234, 1912, Johnston River, Queensland.

No. 428—♂. (23/10/86).

Irides, yellow, brighter next the pupil; lores, brownish olive; upper mandible, dark brown, the lower of the same colour, but tinged in the middle and at the bottom edge with yellowish white; legs and feet, brown above.

No. 452— Length, 25.4 inches (27/10/86).
