

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. 7.

88. CHENISCUS PULCHELLUS. 'Green Goose Teal.

Nettapus pulchellus Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.) 1841, p. 89, Port Essington.

No. 242—♀. Length, 12 inches (13/7/86).

No. 244—♀. Length, 13.2 inches (13/7/86).

No. 273—♂. Length, 13.4 inches (11/7/86).

Irides, fine brown; eyelid, black. Bill, upper mandible, black, becoming very dark brown towards the point; nail, flesh-coloured, tinged with brown, chiefly on top; edge of upper mandible for two-thirds its length from the base and a small spot about half way down the bill and near the edge, fleshy-white; lower mandible, flesh-colour, with two spots at the back of the nail; base of mandible and some irregular spots between the lores of the bill, brown; legs, feet and webs very dark brown with a stripe on the outside of the tarsus, a spot on the inside of the tibia, a line on each side of the middle toe and on the outside of the inner toe, light olive.

They are very lively swimmers in their quick movements over the water, and somewhat resemble the *Grebes* in this respect. Wounded birds do not dive to escape being taken. They do not leave the water, but feed along the edge.

No. 256—♂. Length, 13.1 inches (2/8/86).

No. 279—♀. Length, 13.2 inches (18/7/86).

No. 312—♂. Length, 12.7 inches (26/7/86).

88. CHENONETTA JUBATA. Wood Duck.

Anas Jubata Latham. Index, Ornith. Suppl., p. LXIX
1801, New South Wales,

No. 416—♂. Length, 19.4 inches (20/10/86).

Irides, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, ochre.

No. 417—♀. Length, 18.2 inches.

Irides, dark brown; bill, olive; legs and feet, lightest lead.

No. 532—♀. Length, 18.7 inches (9/11/86).

No. 533—♀. (9/11/86).

89. DENDROCYGNA JAVANICA GOULDI. Whistling Duck.

Dendrocygna Gouldi Gould. Handb. Birds Austr. Vol. II, p. 374, 1865, Port Essington.

No. 285—♀. Length, 16.6 inches (19/7/86).

Irides, brown; bill, black; lower mandible of a lighter colour; the basal portion of the cutting edge of the upper mandible, light slate colour; legs and feet, bluish slate.

89. LEPTOTARSIS EYTONI. Plumed Whistling Duck.

Leptotarsis eytoni. Eyton. Monogr. Anat., p. III., 1838, North-west Australia.

No. 142—♂. Length, 17.3 inches (17/6/86).

Irides, orange, shading into yellow round the pupil; eyelashes, yellow; bill, upper mandible, pink splashed with black in an irregular form, lower mandible, pink, spotted here and there with black; nail, horn colour; feet, webs and legs pale pink; nails, light brown.

No. 144—♂. Length, 17.3 inches (17/6/86).

No. 146—♂. Length, 17.3 inches (17/6/86).

Young. Irides, dull yellow; eyelashes, greenish yellow; bill, upper mandible, bluish flesh-colour, splashed with brown, where in the adult it is black, and showing small spots of black; lower mandible, bluish flesh-colour; nails, horn colour; feet, webs and legs, dirty yellowish flesh colour.

When approached they stretch out their necks, after the manner of the goose tribe, and move it slowly backwards and forwards, occasionally giving a whistle as they walk off.

No. 147—♀. Length, 17.1 inches (same as No. 146).

No. 262—♂. Length, 17.9 inches (2/9/86).

No. 265—♂. Length, 18 inches (16/7/86).

No. 267—♀. Length, 18.5 inches (16/7/86).

91. *ANAS SUPERCILIOSA* ROGERSI. Black Duck.

Anas superciliosa rogersi Mathews. Austral. Av. Rec. Vol. I., p. 33, 1912, Augusta, South-west Australia.

No. 249—♂. Length, 19 inches (14/7/86).

No. 260—♂. Length, 21.7 inches (2/9/86).

Irides, clear brown; bill, upper mandible, leaden olive, olive on basal portion of culmen; a spot over each nostril, and the nail black; lower mandible, olive brown, the bill bordered near the feathers with a black line; legs and feet, brown ochre; webs, darker.

No. 264—♀. Length, 20.7 inches (3/9/86).

Irides, brown; bill, upper mandible, leaden olive, stripe on the cutting edge, a spot under each nostril, and the nail, black; lower mandible, lead colour, the basal half and the skin black; legs and feet, ochre brown, tinged with blue on the front of the tarsus.

91. *VIRAGO CASTANEA* ROGERSI. Western Teal.

Nettion castaneum rogersi Mathews. Austral. Av. Rec. Vol. I., p. 86, 1912, North-West Australia.

No. 263—♀. Length, 15.9 inches (16/7/86).

No. 333—♂. Length 17.3 inches (16/9/86).

92. *MALACORHYNCHUS MEMBRANACEUS*. Pink-eared Duck.

Anas membranacca Latham. Index. Ornith, Suppl. p. LXIX, 1801, New South Wales.

No. 479—♀. Length, 15.3 inches (31/10/86).

Irides, brown; bill, lead, becoming lighter at the base of the upper mandible; lower mandible, light lead, with the apical third, whitish, the membrane black; tarsi and toes, light lead, darker on the joints, the webs, except just near the toes, dark lead.

No. 480—♂. Length, 16.5 inches (31/10/86).

No. 481—♀. Length, 15.4 inches (31/10/86).

No. 483—♂. Length, 15.9 inches 31/10/06).

Its flight is very powerful and swift, and it has a peculiar whistling note while flying or when disturbed. They are easily procured, being by no means wary. They are excellent eating. They are very fat, but their crops contained nothing

but gravel. The extent of white at the tip of the lower mandible varies much; in some it forms a narrow line round the apical third, in others it extends almost quite across, in others this part has a fleshy tint.

No. 523—♂. Length, 16.4 inches (7/11/86).

No. 525—♂. Length, 16.5 inches (7/11/86).

No. 534—♂. Length, 16.2 inches (9/11/86).

93. *NYROCA AUSTRALIS*. White-eyed Duck.

Nyroca australis Eyton. Monogr. Anat. p. 160, 1838, New South Wales.

No. 292—♀. Length, 19 inches (20/7/86).

Irides, with three rings, the inner and outer of light brown, the middle one white; bill, upper mandible, black for about two-thirds of its length, where it is crossed by an irregular bluish-slate coloured band, tip, freckled brown and slate; nail, brown; lower mandible, slate, irregularly spotted with brown; tarsi and toes, light slate, splashed here and there with a darker tint; webs of a darker slate than the toes, but a line on each side of the toes on the web of the same colour as the tarsi.

No. 385—♀. Length, 18.5 inches (16/7/86).

Irides, white; upper mandible with the basal portion, black; anterior portion, pale bluish-white, and a margin of the same colour round the lower edge of the nostrils; nail, black; lower mandible and nail, very dark brown, crossed by a band of bluish-white; tarsi, slaty brown, with a large patch in front, dirty white; toes, dirty white shaded with brown at their points; webs, black, but with a stripe adjoining and running along the middle and outer toes, dirty white; inner web of the inner toe, dirty white, edged with black; tarsal, toe, dirty white; its web, black; nails, dark brown, lighter at the base.

95. *MESOCARBO ATER ATER*. Little Black Cormorant.

Carbo ater Lesson Traite d'Orn. p. 604, 1831, Shark's Bay, West Australia.

No. 248—♂. Length, 26.1 inches (31/8/86).

Irides, fine green; bill, white horn, becoming brown on and all along the culmen, and showing bluish lines on the sides of the lower mandible, skin at the base of the bill and gular pouch, lead colour; feet and webs, black.

Twenty or so of these birds fish, and as soon as one secures a fish, the others chase him and sometimes force him to drop it, when it is immediately seized by another.

No. 250—♀. Length, 24.4 inches (31/8/86).

No. 251—♀. Length, 24.3 inches (21/8/86).

No. 423—♀. Length, 23.6 inches (22/10/86).

Irides, green; bill, lead colour, with the culmen black and lower mandible finely lined irregularly with a darker shade of lead; legs and feet, black.

97. *MICROCARBO MELANOLEUCUS MELVILLENSIS*. Northern Little Cormorant.

Carbo melanoleucus melvillensis Mathews. Austral Av. Rec. Vol. 1., p. 74, 1912, Melville Island.

No. 422—♂. Length, 23 inches (22/10/86).

Irides, very dark brown; bill, ochre, with the culmen and tip dark brown, inside of the bill, orange, and of mouth, pale lead; lores and the skin surrounding the eye, dull olive.

No. 450—♀. Length, 22.6 inches (27/10/86).
