

Birds of the
North and North-West of Australia.

From Notes and Skins made by the late Capt. T. H.
Bowyer-Bower.

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

No. 9.

No. 97. ANHINGA NOVAEHOLLANDIAE. Darter.

Plotus novaehollandiae (Gould). Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.),
1847, p. 34. New South Wales.

No. 535—♀. Length, 36.5 inches (10/11/86).

On being wounded its mate remained with her and they
dived about, often going some two hundred yards under
water. When they came to the surface they only showed

their snake-like head, and at most three inches of their long neck. They dived before the gun could be put to the shoulder. When diving they do not make a splash, but simply, though quickly, sink.

101. CATOPTROPELICANUS CONSPICILLATUS WESTRALIS. Western Pelican.

Pelecanus conspicillatus westralis (Mathews), Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 244, 1912. Perth, West Australia.

No. 426—Length $67\frac{3}{4}$ inches (22/10/86).

Weight 17 pounds. Expanse of wing 8 feet 5.5 inches: Irides dark brown, eyelids lead colour, skin surrounding the eye yellowish white with a shade of blue anteriorly where it joins the feathers of the lores; bill white tinged with flesh colour on the culmen, and the base of the lower mandible; also shaded with light lead blue towards the point of the bill, particularly on the lower mandible, all the bill covered with fine blue lines, but defined at the base of the lower mandible and thickest at the base of the upper, where they give a bluish tint; hook and cutting edges of both mandibles for apical half, yellow; gular pouch white showing purplish lines, and tinged with light ochre anteriorly and shaded with pale flesh posteriorly, particularly where it joins the base of the lower mandible; tibia and tarsi white with a faint tinge and with a yellowish tint at the back of the latter; toes and webs bluish white tinged or stained with ochre; soles of feet yellowish; nails apparently nearly white, but stained with ochre.

A large quantity of fish were found in them varying from one to five inches long.

102. CIRCUS ASSIMILIS ROGERSI. Lesser Spotted Harrier.

Circus assimilis rogersi (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII. p. 244, 1912. Fitzroy River, North-West Australia.

No. 277—♂. Length, 20 inches (18/7/86).

No. 392—♂. Length, 20.8 inches (9/8/86).

Irides yellow, eyelid yellow, finely margined next the eye with brown; bill black becoming bluish horn colour on the sides at the base; legs and feet pale yellow, the latter the brighter.

102. CIRCUS APPROXIMANS INEXPECTATUS. Little Allied Harrier.

Circus approximans inexpectatus (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 245, 1912. Perry's Creek, North-West Australia.

No. 154—♂. Length, 21 inches (19/6/86).

Irides pale yellow; bill black, bluish horn colour at the base; legs dull yellow. This bird works over the flats like a dog.

104. UROSPIZA FASCIATUS DIDIMA. Northern Goshawk.

Astur fasciatus didimus (Mathews). Austral. Av. Rec., Vol. I., p. 33, 1912. Melville Island.

No. 143—♂. Length, 17.2 inches (17/6/06).

No. 211—♀. Length, 18 inches (30/6/06).

Irides fine yellow, eyelash black, with an outer rim of yellow; bill black, bluish horn at the sides of the upper mandible at the base, and lead colour at the base of the lower, cere and gape dull yellow tinged with green; tarsi greenish yellow, toes dull orange yellow.

No. 245—♂. Length, 14.5 inches (31/8/86).

Irides splendid yellow, eyelash pale ochre with a fine brown line next the eye; bill black at the tip, becoming lead blue on the sides, at the base, cere dirty yellow; legs and feet orange yellow.

No. 438—♀. Length, 16.7 inches (25/10/86).

Irides beautiful bright yellow, eyelid yellow, with a fine black line inside; bill black becoming bluish horn at the base, cere and gape greenish yellow; legs and feet ochre.

104. ACCIPITER CIRROCEPHALUS BROOMEI. Western Collared Sparrow Hawk.

Astur cirrocephalus broomei (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 247, 1912. Broom Hill, South-West Australia.

No. 39—♂. Length, 17 inches (24/5/86).

Irides light yellow; bill black, base bluish lead, cere greenish yellow; legs dull yellow.

No. 67—♂. Length, 16 inches (30/5/86).

Irides light yellow, eyelids yellow, bill black, cere greenish yellow; feet dull yellow.

No. 413—♂. Length, 11.7 inches (19/10/86).

No. 475—♂. Length, 12 inches (29/10/86).

Irides fine yellow, becoming orange on the outer circle; eyelid dull yellow, with a fine black line next the eye; bill with culmen and apical half of mandible black, remainder bluish horn, cere and gape dirty yellowish green; tarsi dull yellow tinged with brown on the sides, feet orange.

105. UROAETUS AUDAX CARTERI. Western Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Aquila audax carteri (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 247, 1912. West Australia.

No. 307—♂. Length 3 feet (24/7/86).

Wing from tip to tip 6 feet 7½ inches, weight eight and a half pounds. Irides grey, becoming brown round the pupil; bill, upper mandible black at the tip, becoming bluish horn, then passing into yellowish white at the base, lower mandible bluish horn at tip white for the remainder, but tinged with blue at the base, cere dirty yellow, skin on the lores bluish flesh colour; feet white.

107. HALIASTER INDUS LEUCOSTERNUS. White-headed Sea Eagle.

Haliaetus leucosternus (Gould). Synops. Birds of Austr. Pt. III., pl. 40, 1838. New South Wales.

No. 336—♀. Length, 18.5 inches (17/9/86).

Irides brown; bill bluish horn becoming whitish towards the tip, cere lead colour; legs and feet yellowish white; claws black.

No. 453—♂. Length, 18 inches (27/10/86).

Irides brown; bill whitish horn tinged with yellow and passing into leaden blue at the base and gape, cere light leaden brown; legs and feet pale yellowish white.

108. *HALIASTUR SPHENURUS.* Whistling Eagle.

Milvus sphenurus viellot, Nou. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. Vol. XX., p. 564, 1818. New South Wales.

No. 152—♀. Length, 22.1 inches (19/6/86).

Irides brown; bill and cere horn colour; legs and feet bluish white.

No. 172—♂. Length, 20.6 inches (26/8/86).

Irides dark brown, skin on lores and around the eye bluish-white showing through the thin covering on these parts; legs and feet white.

No. 280—♀. Length, 23 inches (18/7/86).

No. 287—♂. Length, 21.5 inches (19/7/86).

Irides light greenish-brown, eyelids brown, skin on lores slaty-brown; bill and cere brown, becoming lighter on the cutting edge of the upper and lower mandibles; legs and feet white.

108. *MILVUS KORSCHUN AFFINIS.* Allied Kite.

Milvus affinis (Gould). Synops. Birds Austr., pt. III., pl. 47, 1838. New South Wales.

No. 37—♀ (22/5/86).

Irides dark brown; bill black, cere and feet yellow.

109. *GYPHOICTINIA MELANOSTERNA DECEPTA.* Northern Buzzard.

Gypyoictinia melanosterna decepta (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 250, 1912. Parry's Creek, North-West Australia.

No. 381—♀. Length, 22 inches (9/10/86).

111. *FALCO HYPOLEUCUS.* Grey Falcon.

Falco hypoleucos (Gould). Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.), 1840, p. 162, 1841. West Australia.

No. 269—♀. Length, 15.6 inches (17/7/86).

Irides brown, eyelid brown; orbital space white tinged with yellow anteriorly, and at the posterior corner of the eyelid; bill, upper mandible, extreme tip as far as the notch

bluish black, passing into light bluish lead colour along the culmen, but not extending to the cere, the notch and a stripe therefrom following the curve of the culmen, lead colour gradually fading into the yellow of the bill, which colour is brightest at the base, becoming of a whitish tint on the cutting edge and on the stripe between the lead colour of the culmen, and the streak from the notch; lower mandible bluish horn at the tip, passing into greenish white and finally into white at the base, cere and gape deep but not bright yellow, the former lighter and almost white anteriorly; legs and feet orange; claws black.

This bird's flight is very swift, and all birds, large and small, seem much afraid of it.

111. RHYNCHODON PERIGRINUS SUBMELANOGENYS. Western Black-cheeked Falcon.

Falco perigrinus submelanogenys (Mathews). Austral. Av. Rec., Vol. I., p. 33, 1912. South-West Australia.

No. 536—♀. Length, 17.6 inches (10/11/86).

Irides dark brown, cere and orbital space fine yellow. A narrow ring of brown round the eyelid, bill bluish lead, becoming black at the tip of the upper mandible and shading into yellowish horn at the base of both mandibles; legs and feet bright yellow.

111. FALCO LONGIPENNIS ASPLEI. Northern Little Falcon.

Falco lunulatus aspleyi (Mathews). Austral. Av. Rec., Vol. I., p. 33, 1912. Melville Island, Northern Territory.

No. 181—♂. Length, 12 inches (25/6/86).

Irides dark brown, orbital space bluish-white; bill bluish, darker at the tip, cere bluish yellow on the culmen; legs yellow.

No. 250—♀. Length, 13.1 inches (14/7/86).

Irides fine brown, eyelash brown, orbital space bluish-white, the same at the base of the bill; bill bluish-black at the tip, passing into bluish-white at the base, cere pale bluish-white, tinged with greenish-yellow at the top; legs and feet greenish-yellow.

No. 293—♂. Length, 11.9 inches (20/7/86).

No. 347—♀. Length, 13.7 (31/7/86).

This is often seen long after sunset.