

**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., ETC.,]

No. 11.

126. *DUCORPSIUS GYMNOPIIS SUBDISTINCTUS*. North-Western
Bare-eyed Cockatoo.

Cacatoes sanguinea subdistinctus (Mathews). Nov. Zool.,
Vol. XVIII., p. 265, 1912. Parry's Creek, North-West Australia.

No. 205—♂. Length, 18 inches (28/6/86).

Irides, brown; eyelash and space round the eye, light blue lead colour, covered with whitish powder; bill, white, tinged with bluish yellow; feet and legs, mealy lead colour.

No. 226—♂. (6/7/86).

No. 251—♂. Length, 16 inches (14/7/86).

These are very common about Derby. Every morning a flock of some four or five hundred arrive about 11 a.m. and remain till about 5 p.m. The trees are white with them, and when they pitch on the smaller ones the effect is like a May-tree in full flower. All at once they take to the wing together, looking like snow, driven before a high wind; occasionally some 20 or 30 come down to the lagoon to drink, and then they seem to increase the number of water-lilies. They are a noisy bird, and seem always on the lookout. When one is wounded and on the ground shrieking, others come round their fallen comrade.

127. *EOLOPHUS ROSEICAPILLUS DERBYANUS*. Pallid Rose-breasted Cockatoo.

Cacatoes roseicapillus derbyanus (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 266, 1912. Derby, North-West Australia.

No. 105—♀. Length, 13.3 inches.

Irides, pink; bill, white, bluish at the base; orbital space, pinky-red; feet, grey.

128. *LEPTOLOPHUS AURICOMIS INTERMEDIUS*. Western Cockatoo Parrot.

Leptolophus auricomis intermedius (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 267, 1912. Point Torment, North-West Australia.

No. 125—♀. Length, 12.3 inches (14/6/86).

Irides, brown; bill, bluish-horn colour; feet, nearly black.

No. 129—♀. Length, 12.5 inches (14/6/86).

Irides, brown; bill, bluish-horn colour; feet, nearly black.

No. 343—♂. Length, 12.6 inches (31/7/86).

Irides, brown; bill and cere, lead colour; legs and feet, brownish-black.

No. 346—♂. Length, 12.4 inches (31/7/86).

These birds go in flocks of from twelve to twenty or thirty. They arrive every morning and evening to drink. They keep flying round and round before drinking, often going down near the ground, and then mounting in the air again. They often perch on dead or naked trees.

130. *APROSMICTUS ERYTHROPTERUS PARRYENSIS*. Western Red-winged Parrot.

Aprosmictus erythropterus parryensis (Mathews). Nov. Zool. Vol. XVIII., p. 268, 1912. Parry's Creek, North-West Australia.

No. 145—Length, 12.6 inches (17/6 86).

Irides and bill, vermillion; feet, mealy black.

No. 364—♂. Length 13 inches (3/8/86).

No. 376—♂. Length, 12.9 inches (7/10/86).

No. 377—♀. Length, 13.3 inches (7/10/86).

No. 388—♂. Length, 13. inches (11/10/86).

Irides brown next the pupil, pale orange outside; eyelid, brown; bill, orange at the tip, becoming red at the base; nostrils, orange; legs and feet mealy black.

No. 389—♀. Length, 13.6 inches (11/10/86).

Irides, brown next the pupil, with an outer ring of orange; eyelid brown; bill dull yellow at the base, shading into reddish-brown at the base; legs and feet mealy black.

142. *PODARGUS STRIGOIDES DENDYI*. Western Freckled Frogmouth.

Podargus strigoides dendyi (Mathews). Nov. Zool. Vol. XVIII., p. 283, 1912. Derby, North-West Australia.

No. 38—♂. Length, 17½ inches (22/5/86).

Irides, reddish-yellow; bill and feet, olive brown; inside of mouth, fine yellow.

No. 186—♂. Length, 16.3 inches (26/6/06).

This bird was flushed from the ground where two specimens of *Cracticus* were flying round him as though they could not make him out.

No. 447—♂. Length, 16.5 inches (26/10/86).

Irides, yellow, deeper on the outer circle; bill, light brown, with a yellowish white hue on the culmen, but the whole dirty and much stained; legs and feet, olive brown.

No. 448—♀. Length, 15 inches (26/10/86).

Similar to male.

The nest was a small structure about four inches across, placed at the end of a branch of a leafless "boa-bab", and was composed of a few twigs very roughly put together. One of the adults was on the nest, and so much resembled a piece of wood, that had it not been sitting or rather standing the reverse way to which a fork would generally grow, it would not have been noticed. Its feathers all appeared closely drawn in; and the bird seemed to have extended itself to its utmost length, with the head and bill in one line with the body. Its mate, probably the male, was on the same tree, and no movement betrayed life in them; the sitting bird slowly turned its head as the tree was approached, when the cock flew off, and soon afterwards the sitting bird. The two young ones in the nest were covered with a white down, but not so thickly as in the case with owls. The bills were of a bluish-white colour, and the legs white. One was considerably larger than the other, and made a short hissing noise of a very quiet kind. The nest was fully exposed to the full rays of the mid-day sun. The larger young one flew from the nest, when next visited, and crawled under some dead grass, and was found with difficulty. It made a curious trembling cry for food. They open bill and wings and snap at the intruder, after the manner of owls. They have not the owl motion about the head, but look most like these birds when they place themselves in a defensive attitude, spreading wings and moving the head about rather snake-like.

No. 449—♂. (Young). Length, 9.3 inches (27/10/86).

Irides, light ochre; the pupil has a bluish slate tinge; bill, light brown, with a slight leaden hue at the tip of the upper mandible.

No. 451—♂. (Young). Length, 8.5 inches (27/10/86).

Similar to the above (perhaps from the same nest).

No. 498—♀. Length, 15.1 inches (3/11/86).

144. *AEGOTHELES CRISTATA RUFA*, Rufous Owlet Nightjar.

Aegothales rufa (Hall). Veit. Nat. Vol. XVIII., p. 89, 1901. Derby, North-West Australia.

No. 424—♀. Length, 9.3 inches (22/10/86).

Irides, dark brown; bill, brown, flesh colour on under mandible, and cutting edges lighter; legs and feet, flesh colour; toes, brown.

145. EURYSTOMUS ORIENTALIS BRAVI. Western Dollar Bird.

Eurystomus orientalis bravi (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 285, 1912. Parry's Creek, North-West Australia.

No. 406—♂. Length, 11.4 inches (17/10/86).

No. 456—♂. Length, 11.3 inches (27/10/86).

Irides, dark brown; eyelid, reddish brown; bill, vermillion, with tip of upper mandible black; legs and feet, coral red.

148. DACELO LEACHII OCCIDENTALIS. Western Fawn-breasted Kingfisher.

Dacelo occidentalis (Gould). Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.), 1869, p. 602. Derby, North-West Australia.

No. 42—♂. Length, 16 inches (24/5/86).

Irides, white; bill, upper mandible, brown, lower, yellowish white; feet, pale olive.

This bird, though not rare, is very wild and difficult to get within range of it. Its note is quite different from *Dacelo leachii*, but not so much laugh about it as *Dacelo gigas*, and I have not heard it give that kind of barking note which *D. leachii* does on leaving a tree. Its note is heard early in the morning, and occasionally during the day, but chiefly some time after the sun has set.

No. 60—♂. Length, 16.4 inches (29/5/86).

Irides, white; upper mandible, dark brown; lower one, yellowish white; feet, olive.

No. 104—♀. Length, 17.5 inches (6/6/86).

Irides, white; upper mandible, brown; lower, fleshy white; legs and feet, pale olive. This bird was shot after sundown, and while the moon was giving a fair light. There were two, laughing away; when disturbed they flew to another tree, and the "bark" like that uttered by *D. leachi* was heard for the first time.

No. 114—♀. Length, 16.5 inches (8/6/86).

Irides, grey.

No. 228—♂. Length, 16 inches (7/7/86).

Irides, whitish; legs, olive.

No. 309—♂. Length, 16.1 inches (13/9/86).

Irides, white; upper mandible, brown; cutting edges, horn colour; lower mandible, whitish-brown, darkest at the sides of the base; legs and feet, light olive.

No. 311—♀. Length, 16 inches (13/9/86).

Similar to the above.

No. 341—♂. Length, 16.5 inches (18/9/86).

Irides, white; upper mandible, brown, passing into yellowish white at the tip and on the cutting edges; lower mandible, white, with a brown patch on each side at the base; legs and feet, yellowish olive.

No. 343—♂. Length, 16.2 inches (18/9/86).

Similar to the above.

No. 390—♂. Length, 16.3 inches (11/10/86).

148. *CYANALCYON MACLEAYI* PUBLA. Forest Kingfisher.

Halcyon macleayi publa (Mathews). Austral. Av. Rec., Vol. I., p. 38, 1912. Northern Territory.

No. 6—♂. (8/5/86). Palmerston.

149. *CYANALCYON PYRRHOPYGIUS* OBSCURUS. Northern Red-backed Kingfisher.

Halcyon pyrrhopygius obscurus (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 288, 1912. Parry's Creek, North-West Australia.

No. 1—♂. Length, 8.6 inches (Palmerston, 8/5/86).

Irides, black; upper mandible, black; lower, pearly white on the basal half, remainder, black; feet, olive brown.

No. 2—♂. Length, 9 inches (Palmerston, 8/5/86).

Irides, black; upper mandible, black; lower, pearly white on the basal half, remainder black; feet, olive-brown.

No. 31—♂. Length, 9½ inches (21/5/86).

Irides, brown; upper mandible, black; lower, with basal half, white; remainder, black; legs, olive.

No. 34—♀. Length, 9½ inches (21/5/86).

No. 159—Length, 9.3 (21/6/86).

No. 96—♀. Length 9 inches (5/6/86).

No. 274—Length, 9.3 (4/9/86).

150. *COSMABROPS ORNATUS* SHORTRIDGEE. Western Bee-Eater.

Merops ornatus shortridgei (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 290, 1912. Strelly River, West Australia.

No. 4—Length, 10½ inches (Palmerston (18/5/86).

No. 137—♀. Length, 8.6 inches (16/6/86).

Irides, crimson; bill and feet black.

No. 139—♀. Length, 9.1 inches (16/6/86).

No. 157—♂. Length 10 inches (19/6/86).

No. 271—♂. Length, 10.4 (17/7/86).

151. *EUROSTOPODUS ARGUS HARTERTI*. Northern Spotted Nightjar.

Eurostopodus argus harterti (Mathews). Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 291, 1912. Northern Territory.

No. 240—♀. Length, 12½ inches (11/5/86).

Irides, dark brown, with a large black pupil; eyelids, fleshy brown; bill and feet, brown. This bird was shot on board the S.S. Menmuir, about five miles from Point Torment. It was flying round the ship for some time, it was quite light, being about 6.30 a.m.

No. 165—♀. Length 11.9 inches 21/6/86).

In the evening these birds fly about, keeping low, and by the edge of the lagoon.

No. 190—♀. Length, 11.6 inches 26/6/86).

No. 351—♀. Length, 11.5 inches (1/8/86).

Common in the evenings. They stay during the day in small hollows in the ground, and are with difficulty distinguished. On the wing their flight is noiseless and quick, particularly in their sharp turns.

No. 368—♀. Length, 11.6 inches (3/8/06).

No. 382—♂. Length, 12.3 inches (7/8/86).

No. 387—♀. Length, 12.2 inches (10/10/86).

No. 519—♂. Length, 12. inches (5/11/86).

154. *CUCULUS OPTATUS*. Oriental Cuckoo.

Cuculus optatus (Gould). Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.), 1845, p.

18. Port Essington, Northern Territory.

No. 10—8/5/86, Palmerston).

Eye, yellow, bill, olive; lower mandible, lighter; feet, olive green.

No. 126—♂. Length, (14/6/86).

Irides, dark brown; eyelid, yellow; bill, brown; olive at the base of the lower mandible; gape yellow; feet, olive brown.

No. 223—♂. Length, 12.2 inches (27/8/86).

No. 248—♀. Length, 11.4 inches (14/7/86).

Irides, clear brown; eyelash, bright yellow; bill, upper mandible, brown; lower, dull yellow; gape, bright yellow; feet, meaty black.

No. 425—♂. Length, 12.4 inches (22/10/86).

Irides, dark brown; eyelid, yellow; bill, brown; olive at the base of the lower mandible; gape and the inside of bill, reddish yellow; legs and feet, olive brown.
