

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. 12

156. CACOMANTIS PYRROPHANUS DUMETORUM. Western Square-tailed Cuckoo.

Oculus dumetorum (Gould), Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.), 1845,
p. 19. Port Essington, Northern Territory,

No. 308—♀. Length, 8.5 inches (12/9/86).

Irides, brown round the pupil, and gradually shading into olive grey on its outer circle; upper mandible, black, lower, olive-brown; front of tarsi and feet brownish ochre; back of tarsi and soles of feet, dirty yellow; inside of bill and mouth, bright salmon colour, deepest on the latter.

No. 348—♂. Length, 9.0 inches (19/9/86).

No. 445—♂. Length, 8.9 inches (26/10/86).

No. 527—♂. Length, 9.0 inches (8/11/86).

156. *OWENAVIS OSCULANS ROGERSI*. Western Black-eared Cuckoo.

Owenavis osculans rogersi (Mathews), Austral. Av. Rec., Irides, brown, bill and feet, black.

Vol. I., p. 13, 1912. Parry's Creek, North-west Australia.

No. 218—♀. Length, 7.85 inches (5/7/86).

No. 358—♀. Length, 8.1 inches (2/8/86).

No. 359—♂. Length, 7.8 inches (2/8/86).

No. 411—♀. Length, 8.1 inches (18/10/86).

These birds were observed in a thick tea-tree scrub.

157. *NEOCHALCITES BASALIS WYNDHAMI*. Western Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo.

Chrysococcyx basalis wyndhami (Mathews), Austral. Av. Rec., Vol. I., p. 14, 1912. Point Torment, North-west Australia.

No. 118—Length, 6.8 inches (12/6/86).

Irides, brownish grey; bill, black, bluish at the base of the lower mandible; feet mealy black.

160. *POLOPHILUS PHASIANINUS MELANURUS*. North-western Coucal.

Centropus melanurus (Gould), Birds, Austral., Vol. IV., text to pl. 92, 1847. Derby, North-west Australia.

No. 202—♀. Length, 2 feet, 3 inches (28/6/86).

No. 214—♀. (1/7/86).

Irides, light greenish brown; space around the eye, bluish lead colour; bill, fleshy white; legs and feet, lead colour.

No. 220—♂. Length, 25.7 (26/8/86).

165. *HYLOCHELIDON NIGRICANS NEGLECTA*. Western Tree Martin.

Petrochelidon nigricans neglecta (Mathews), Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 301, 1912. Fitzroy River, North-west Australia.

No. 297—♂. Length, 4.8 inches.

No. 298.—Length, 4.7 inches (21/7/86).

Bill and legs, black. Very common, occasionally rests on dead trees in considerable numbers, chiefly in the early morning.

166. *MICROECA FASCINANS SUBPALLIDA*. Western Pale Fly-catcher.

Microeca fascinans subpallida (Mathews), Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 302, 1912. Napier Broome Bay, North-west Australia.

No. 54—♀. Length, 5.2 inches (27/5/86).

Irides, dark brown; bill, brown; legs, black.

No. 83—♀. Length, 5.1 inches (2/6/86).

No. 84—♂. Length, 5.1 inches (2/6/86).

Irides, dark brown; bill, black, whitish at the base of the lower mandible; feet black.

170. *MELANODRYAS CUCULLATA PICATA*. Pied Robin.

Melanodryas picata (Gould), Handb. Birds Austral., Vol. I., p. 285, 1865. North-west Coast, Australia.

No. 487—♂. Length, 6.5 inches.

No. 492—♀. Length, 5.7 (2/11/86).

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

No. 499—♂. Length, 6.4 inches (3/11/06).

No. 502—♂. Length, 6.4 inches (3/11/06).

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

No. 518—♀. Length, 6.2 inches (5/11/86).

171. *SMICRORNIS BREVIROSTRIS ROGERSI*. North-western Tree Tit.

Smicrornis brevirostris rogersi (Mathews), Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 307, 1912. Napier Broome Bay, North-west Australia.

No. 191—♂. Length, 3.2 (27/6/06).

No. 193—♀. Length, 3.2 (27/6/06).

No. 209—♀. Length, 3.5 (29/6/06).

No. 291—♂. Length, 3.4 (19/7/86).

No. 352—Length, 3.2 (2/8/86).

No. 353—Length, 3.4 (2/8/86).

No. 368—Length, 3.7 (26/9/86).

172. *GERYGONE OLIVACEA ROGERSI*. Grey Fly-eater.

Gerygone albigularis rogersi (Mathews), Nov. Zool., Vol. XVIII., p. 23, 1911. Derby, North-west Australia.

No. 95—♂. Length 4 inches (5/6/86).

Bill, brown, fleshy white at the base of the lower mandible; legs, bluish-grey.

No. 113—♂. Length, 4.1 inches (8/6/86).

Irides, light red; bill, dark brown; feet, dark grey.

No. 115—♀. Length, 4 inches (8/6/86).

Bill, dark brown, lighter at the base of the lower mandible.

No. 275—♂. Length, 4 inches (5/9/86).

176. POECILODRYAS SUPERCILIOSA BELCHERI. Western Buff-sided Robin.

Pachycephala superciliosa belcheri (Mathews), Austral. Av. Rec. Vol. I., p. 40, 1912. Napier Broome Bay, North-west Australia.

No. 221—♂. Length, 6.1 inches (27/8/86). "

No. 267—♂. Length, 6.1 inches (3/9/86).

No. 305—♂. (11/9/06).

No. 330—Length, 6.9 (16/9/86).

No. 332—Length 7 inches (16/9/86).

Irides, brown; feet and legs, brown.

No. 337—♀. Length, 6.4 inches 17/9/86).

Irides, greyish brown; bill, black; feet and legs, brown.

No. 465—imm. Length, 4.7 inches (28/10/86).

Irides, pale slaty brown; the pupil with a bluish and dull tint; eyelid, brown; somewhat lighter than the feathers of the head; bill, brown; the cutting edges and gape yellowish white; legs and feet light brown, with a purplish tint on the tarsus; claws, white.

No. 467—♂. Length, 6.8 (28/10/86).

No. 468—♀. Length, 6.5 (28/10/86).

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

The song of this bird is most beautiful and varied. In itself also it is a lovely bird when alive. The skins give no idea of its real beauty, when seen sitting under the shade of a tree giving forth its beautiful song, with the dark green as a background. It is very robin-like in its movements, and when singing frequently jerks up its head after the manner of that bird. It moves along the branches in a very taking manner, and when singing lets its wings fall below the tail; the colours show out very brightly.

The two adults and young were obtained in a very shady spot. On the male being wounded and falling to the ground, the female went down to him, and both were secured, a pair not having been seen together before. The young one could fly, and also had to be shot.

178. *PACHYCEPHALA PECTORALIS MELANURA*. Black-tailed Thickhead.

Pachycephala melanura (Gould), Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.), 1842, p. 134, 1843. Derby, North-west Australia.

No. 311—♂. Length, 6.6 inches (25/7/86).

180. *LEWINORNIS RUFIVENTRIS COLLETTI*. Western Rufous-breasted Thickhead.

Pachycephala rufiventris colletti (Mathews), Austral. Av. Rec., Vol. I., p. 41. Parry's Creek, North-west Australia.

No. 188—♂. Length, 6.5 inches (26/6/86).

Irides, reddish brown; bill and feet, black.

No. 189—♀. Length, 6.2 (26/6/86).

Bill brown, lower mandible lighter at the base. The above are a pair shot together.

No. 197—♂ Length, 6.7 (27/6/86).

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

No. 275—♀. Length, 6.8 inches (17/7/86).

No. 354—♂. Length, 6.7 inches (2/8/86).

No. 476—♂. Length, 6.7 inches (29/10/86)

The males of this subspecies are very shy, and not easily obtained, the females and young birds are easily shot. Their note is full and sweet.
