

*Trachea of a Painted Snipe.*

(*Rostratula australis*) (Plate XV).

The model from which was taken the photograph here reproduced is in the South Australian Museum. It represents the trachea or windpipe of a female, in which sex only this peculiarity is found in this species. The trachea passes down between the skin and muscles of the breast for the whole length of the body. It turns down on the left side of the chest over the abdomen, crossing the lower part of the abdomen from left to right, returning and following the track, as indicated on the Plate, and entering the throat over the arch of the furcula.



Plate XV.—Natural size.

B. C. Cotton.

Trachea of a ♀ Painted Snipe (*Rostratula australis*).

The female is more brilliantly coloured and larger than the male, who incubates the eggs and rears the young. The call attributed to the female is a booming sound, which has the same tone and pitch as that of the Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), but is more frequently repeated and at shorter intervals. In an allied species in India the call of the female is likened to the coo of a dove, and its immature females have a straight trachea like the males. Mr. J. Neil McGilp heard a coo like a dove at the Camden Swamp on 29th October, 1933.

The Painted Snipe is nomadic in its habits. So far it has been noted in South Australia at Grange, Reedbeds, Camden Swamp, Mount Gambier District, Robe, Burra, and Orroroo District—the dates spreading from October to January.

