

The following species were noted at Ellensbrook which do not occur in Mr. Milligan's list\* :—*Cerchneis cenchroides* (Kestrel), *Sericornis maculata* (Spotted-throated Scrub-Wren), *Glycyphila fulvifrons* (Fulvous-fronted Honey-eater) and *G. ocularis* (Brown Honey-eater), *Halcyon sanctus* (Sacred Kingfisher), *Demiegretta sacra* (Reef-Heron), *Nettion gibberifrons* (Grey Teal), and *Dromaius novæ-hollandiæ* (Emu). *G. fulvifrons* was not uncommon on the open hills about Cowaramup Brook, and were feeding young in the nest on 10th November. *Zonæginthus oculatus* (Red-eared Finch) was on two occasions shot from the upper limbs of karri trees in forest.

4th to 14th January I spent at Killerberin, on the Coolgardie railway line, with the enthusiastic oologist Mr. B. W. Leake. When camped out together in the neighbourhood we shot two specimens of *Melithreptus* which Mr. Milligan stated to be identical with his recently described species, *M. leucogenys*. The same day I was watching a Yellow-cheeked Parrakeet (*Platycercus icterotis*) from a short distance with my binoculars, being struck with its red mantle, but, unfortunately, did not shoot it, as I had a long string of specimens to skin, and had overlooked the possibility of its being *P. xanthogenys* (Salvadori). Some future collector may solve the problem of this species occurring there, also the identity of a small Wren seen in the open scrubby plains, which was not secured, and a small bird which was once seen travelling very rapidly in a family party among the tops of the timber — perhaps a *Sittella*. When crossing the Coolgardie railway line on 10th January we noted a Red-backed Kingfisher (*H. pyrrhopygius*) fly out of one of the numerous pits dug at the water-pipe joints. Investigation disclosed a nest containing five incubated eggs, which were visible without enlarging the nesting-hole. Mr. Leake says these birds are much more numerous than formerly, having evidently followed up the line, in consequence of procuring abundant food from the newly turned up soil.

## Notes on a Collection of Bird-skins from the Fitzroy River, North-Western Australia.

BY ROBERT HALL.

With Field Notes by J. P. ROGERS.

### PART III.

#### 114. *FALCO LUNULATUS* (Latham), Little Falcon.

*Falco frontatus*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. i., pl. 10 (1848).

*Falco lunulatus*, Sharpe, Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus., vol. i., p. 398 (1874).

a. Adult skin, female, 18/2/02.

b. Immature skin, female, 27/2/02.

This morning I saw this species keeping low and flying at a tremendous rate immediately above the grass. Some Wood-

\* *Emu*, vol. ii., pp. 70-77.

Swallows (*A. cinereus*), seeing the Hawk coming while they were perched in a tree and the Hawk still 200 yards away, rose directly high into the air. One was singled out, and the Hawk, keeping below it, drove it still higher into the air. Going still higher, the Swallow then turned and made for the ground, with the Hawk in close pursuit. It was a wonderful sight to see the Hawk, not more than one yard in the rear, following every turn of the bird pursued. Three times the Hawk missed his blow. When within 20 yards of the ground it made its final attack, and succeeded in securing its prey. Then, shooting into the air some 40 feet, it dropped to the ground.

115. *NINOX OCCIDENTALIS* (Ramsay), Western Winking-Owl.

*Ninox connivens-occidentalis*, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W., vol. i., 2nd Series, p. 1086 (1886).

Adult skin, male, 19/2/02.

Base of bill and cere yellow; irides and feet yellow.

116. *NINOX OCELLATA* (Hombr. and Jacq.), Marbled Owl.

*Ninox ocellata*, Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. ii., p. 170 (1875).

Adult skin, male, 12/3/02.

[Irides yellowish-brown; bill brown, at base bluish-grey; cere and feet bluish-grey.]

117. *CISTICOLA EXILIS* (Vigors and Horsfield), Grass-Warbler.

*Cisticola lineicapilla*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. iii., pl. 43 (1848).

*Cisticola ruficeps*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. iii., pl. 45 (1848).

*Cisticola isura*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. iii., pl. 44 (1848).

*Cisticola exilis*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. iii., pl. 42 (1848);

Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. vii., p. 269 (1883).

a. Adult skin, male, 9/3/02.

b. Immature skin, male, 16/3/02.

c. Young, 14/3/02.

[This species is fairly numerous in the Brooking Creek Gorge, Oscar Range, but at Livuringa it is the second time seen. Specimen a swelled out its throat when singing to the size of a pea-nut.]

118. *POMATORHINUS RUBECULUS* (Gould), Red-breasted Babbler.

*Pomatorhinus rubeculus*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. iv., pl. 21 (1848); Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. vii., p. 421 (1883).

Four adult male skins, 11/5/02.

[a. Found nest to-day (20/9/00) with three young in it.

b. Found nest with three eggs in it, December. I saw the birds turning over all curled leaves, and looking within them for insects.

c. Found nest, 6/2/01, with two eggs.]

119. *GEOPELIA CUNEATA* (Latham), Little Turtle-Dove.

*Geopelia cuneata*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. v., pl. 74; Salvadori, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. xxi., p. 462 (1893).

One adult skin.

[On 22/10/01 I found two eggs in a nest which had been used for a brood previously. This I judged by the droppings being placed upon the edges of the nest. I find (2/4/00) several of this species are breeding. The adults endeavoured to entice me away by fluttering and struggling when flying, as if wounded.

The Turtle-Doves are still in large flocks (6/6/02). I counted 40 perched on a small cajaput tree beside the road leading into Derby.]

120. *GEOPELIA HUMERALIS* (Temminck), Barred-shouldered Dove.

*Geopelia humeralis*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. v., pl. 72; Salvadori, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. xxi., p. 455 (1893).

Adult males, 19/2/02.

[Bare patch round eye leaden colour, with purple showing through in places. This species tries to divert one's attention from their nests (2/4/00), just as with the previous species.]

121. *CORVUS CORONOIDES* (Vigors and Horsfield), Crow.

*Corvus coronoides*, Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. iii., p. 20 (1877).

Adult female skin, 27/2/02.

[This bird was foster-parent of three young Channelbill Cuckoos. The young Cuckoos were seated upon the edge of the nest. Very strange they looked as their bills pointed skyward, the bill and neck being in a line with the body, upon the same plane. The nest was on a very thin limb. The young Cuckoos have a loud squawking cry. The foster-parents kept flying around the tree top while I was examining the nest. Irides white, with blue ring round pupil.]

122. *EUDYNAMIS CYANOCEPHALA* (Latham), Koel.

*Eudynamis flindersii*, Gould, Birds Aust., fol., vol. iv., pl. 91 (1848).

*Eudynamis cyanocephala*, Shelley, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. xix., p. 324 (1891).

Three skins, nestlings, male, female, sex not marked, 7/2/02.

[Irides yellowish-brown; bill pale brown, cutting edge white; feet and legs blue-grey. Heard the calls of adults at 7.30 p.m.; very dark. Found young in Crow's nest—a record.]

123. *TURNIX VELOX* (Gould), Little Quail, Swift-flying Turnix.

*Turnix velox*, Ogilvie-Grant, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. xxii., p. 553 (1893).

Five skins received.

a, b. Adult males, 18/2/02.

c, d, e. Adult females, 19/2, 6/3, 19/3/02.

[When rising the wings of the female give a sharp whirr, and the bird at the same time emits a quick note of alarm. It usually flies 100 yards, and as it does not run when alighted it is easily flushed again. Specimen a had a fully-developed yolk in its ovary.]

124. *PODICIPES NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ* (Stephens), Black-throated Grebe.

*Podiceps gularis*, Gould, *Birds Aust.*, fol., vol. vii., pl. 81 (1843);  
Ogilvie-Grant, *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.*, vol. xxvi., p. 519 (1898).

Adult male and female, 4/2/02.

[This species is very tame. At Ellamurd's, where they were feeding upon insects within a few yards of where I was standing, the female bird I unknowingly shot when it was on the nest. There was an egg in the oviduct.] It seems the bird weighs down the nest, which was nearly 4 inches out of the water, according to Mr. Rogers. [There was a tape-worm in the intestines of the female specimen about 9 inches in length.]

125. *LOPHÆTHYIA (PODICIPES) CRISTATA* (Linnæus), Tippet Grebe.

*Podiceps australis*, Gould, *Birds Aust.*, fol., vol. vii., pl. 80 (1844);  
Grant, *Brit. Mus. Cat. Birds*, xxvi., p. 502 (1898).

*Lophæthya cristata*, Sharpe, *Hand List of Birds*, vol. i., p. 114 (1899).

One adult skin.

126. *STILTIA ISABELLA* (Vieillot), Pratincole.

*Glareola grallaria*, Gould, *Handbook Birds Aust.*, ii., p. 243 (1865).  
*Stiltia isabella*, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.*, vol. xxiv., p. 51 (1896).

Adult females, 28/12/01.

127. *PORPHYRIO BELLUS* (Gould), Blue Bald-Coot.

*Porphyrio bellus*, Gould, *Birds Aust.*, fol., vol. vi., pl. 70 (1841);  
Sharpe, *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.*, vol. xxiii., p. 202 (1894).

Adult female, 27/1/02.

[Birds now laying (27th January). Four clutches, each 5, 6, 6, 7 eggs. For nest the grasses are beaten down, and reeds are placed upon them. Several nests of eggs found on 22/2/02 contained five eggs or eight eggs, and the larger number lay in bowls that appeared to have been flattened by the birds to hold better the eggs. The nests were bulky, being 16 inches in breadth and 14 inches in depth.]

(*To be continued.*)

## The Plumage Phases of *Ptilotis leucotis*, Lath.

BY ROBERT HALL, MELBOURNE.

IN January, 1902, a skin of a Honey-eater was handed to me by Mr. Wallen for identification.

It did not agree with any description known to me, but by appearances I considered it might be a young bird of the White-eared Honey-eater.

Subsequently I was able to secure skins that showed this particular one to be a phase between the nestling and the adult.