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[PART I.

Description of a New Kestrel from Western Australia.

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I HAVE great pleasure in adding what I consider a new Kestrel to the list of Australian species. The bird was captured alive some weeks ago at Yalgoo, in the north-western portion of this State (where it is said to be a very common form), and sent to the Western Australian Zoological Gardens, Perth. The Director, Mr. Ernest Le Souëf, and the head keeper of the Gardens, Mr. Giles, were, on its arrival at the Gardens, at once struck with its diminutive form and general rufous colouration as compared with living forms of *Cerchneis cenchroides* (Vig. and Hors.) which they had in the Gardens.

The new bird differs from the common form in not possessing any white or pale feathers on the under parts of the body, those parts being a decided cinnamon-pink and making it very distinctive. In addition, the tail is not grey, but rusty-cinnamon, and the legs pea-green and not orange-yellow. It also is much smaller.

The following is a specific description of an adult male:—

The whole of the upper surface is deep rusty-cinnamon, the crown and neck feathers with longitudinal black striations, the mantle with black arrow-heads sparsely distributed, the wing coverts and secondaries with narrow black crescentic markings. Tail feathers (rusty-cinnamon, not grey) with black transverse bars, subterminal black band, and whitish tips. Whole of under surface, including under surface of wings, cinnamon-pink, paler than the upper surface, with a few feathers of the breast striated with sepia. Ear coverts inclining to greyish-brown. Narrow circle of feathers above eye, and a tuft below eye, blackish-brown. Culmen light reddish-blue; cere light blue, with yellowish tinge; eyes and feet pea-green.

Type in Western Australian Museum, Perth.

Owing to the partiality of the bird for young chickens, it is known locally as the "Chicken-Hawk." As a consequence poultry-owners wage a ruthless war with members of the species.

Cases have been recorded in Europe where Kestrels, when pressed hard for food, have had recourse to young game. I have not, however, observed this habit with the Nankeen Kestrel in Victoria or Western Australia, and have had splendid opportunities of observing their habits in both States. It is said that the common Kestrel of Europe is represented by a dark resident race in countries bordering on its southern range. Allowing for a tendency towards variability in size and colouring amongst members of the genus, I think, nevertheless, that upon a comparison of the new species with that of the Eastern bird (which is identical with our coast bird) the specific differences will appear such as to justify, on sight, the above separation.

I assign the scientific name of *Cerchneis unicolor* to the new bird, and the vernacular name of Western Kestrel.

Notes on a Trip to the Wongan Hills, Western Australia.

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PART II.

NESTS AND EGGS.—From the preceding remarks (Part I., *Emu*, vol. iii., p. 217) it will be gathered that most of the birds had finished nesting, or had, at least, brought out their first broods. Some, however, were still nesting, such as *Glycyphila albigrons*, *Glycyphila fulvifrons*, *Ptilotis sonora*, and *Micraëca assimilis*. I was much pleased to discover the pretty nest of the last-mentioned on our return journey, between the Mission Station and Mogumber. The nest was placed in the fork of a fallen branch of a eucalypt, which had become barkless and bleached from decay and weather. The branch was close to the main road, where vehicles and horsemen passed daily, but the traffic evidently caused the birds no grave concern. Whilst the bird sat on the nest until we approached within a yard of it, it was almost impossible to detect it, so alike were the general colours of the bird, nest, and branch.

Of nests containing young the most notable were those of *Podargus strigoides* and *Uroaëtus audax*. Of the former species we observed two nests, each containing two young ones. The first one was discovered in an isolated *Casuarina* belt on the lake country, and so closely did the nest and young resemble the surrounding branches that we should have passed within a yard of it had not the parent bird flown away and thus drawn our attention. A photograph of the nest is reproduced. The nest itself was an ill-constructed, shallow, flimsy structure, the builders having evidently relied to a great degree on the inclined fork and under twigs of the dead sapling for the strength of the structure. The second one was discovered by our driver in a