

Tree-Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*).—Very few; one or two seen.

Wood-Swallow (*Ariamus sordidus*).—More plentiful than the previous species.

Musk Lorikeet (*Glossopsittacus concinnus*).—This was the only one of the *Psittaci* observed here. They were moving in flocks of, say, 12.

Brown Quail (*Synæcus australis*).—One flushed off the ground; most likely this species.

Description of a New *Rhipidura*.

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RECENTLY I have received from my friend, Mr. C. E. May, Anson Bay, Northern Territory, two formalin specimens of a *Rhipidura* that appears intermediate between *R. dryas*, Gould, and *R. intermedia*, North.

It differs from the former in having dark spots or scale-like marks on the chest, as in *R. rufifrons*, and it differs from Mr. A. J. North's description of *R. intermedia* (*Vict. Nat.*, xix., p. 101) in that the orange-rufous colouration of the basal half of the tail feathers is absent, except for a wash of rufous on the basal portion of the outer web of the tail feathers (as in *R. dryas*); but this rufous wash barely extends beyond the upper tail coverts. Also, there is more white at the tips of the tail feathers. In fact, the bird under notice corresponds with Gould's description of *R. dryas* except for the black scaly markings on chest and its larger size. It therefore seems to link up the gap between *R. dryas* and *R. intermedia*, and suggests the probability that, if a sufficient series of skins were obtained round the coast of eastern and northern Australia, a gradual transition would be found from the typical *Rhipidura rufifrons*, Lath., of the Gippsland scrub, to the North-Western form of *Rhipidura dryas*, Gould.

Should the variety herein described be considered deserving of specific difference, I would suggest that it be known as *Rhipidura mayi*, after Mr. C. E. May, who has done so much good work in collecting the birds of the Northern Territory. The measurements are as follows.—Total length, 6.2 inches; length of wing, 2.8 inches; length of tail, 3.8 inches; tarsus, 0.7 inches.

[*Note*.—Since writing the foregoing I have learned that there are specimens in collections labelled *R. dryas* that have the black spots on the chest. My contention is that these are not *R. dryas*, because Gould expressly points out that the black spots are absent in that species. Secondly, there are also specimens in collections labelled *R. intermedia*, North, in which the tail feathers are not rufous, but are similar to *R. dryas*; and these may not be Mr. North's *R. intermedia*, as he states that in the type of that species the basal half of tail feathers is rufous.—E. A.]