

volume than the earlier notes, and blending together so as to sound almost like one long rolling sound. When one goes near the nest, or a young bird, the parents will sometimes put in an appearance, and then they utter an alarm call, consisting of one note only. It is so keen, and sharp, and vicious that I cannot describe it, unless I say that it seems to cut or stab.

### Description of a New Honey-eater

BY F. ERASMUS WILSON, R.A.O.U., MELBOURNE.

#### ***Myzantha melanotis*, sp. nov.**

The whole of the upper surface, except the lower forehead, brownish-grey; lower forehead yellowish-olive; lores, line beneath eye, and ear coverts conspicuously black; wings and tail brown, margined at the base of the external webs with wax yellow, the tail terminating in faded pale brown; chin yellow; throat and lower chest dull grey; the feathers of the sides of the neck and chest light grey, cross-barred with dusky brown lines near the extremity and tipped with white; abdomen and under tail coverts white; yellow patch of feathers on each side of neck; bare skin around eye, bill, and gape maize-yellow; legs and feet dull brownish-yellow. This description refers to an adult male.

*Measurements.* — Total length, 9.25 inches; tail, 4.5 inches; tarsi, 0.75 inch; and culmen, 0.8 inch.

The above bird was obtained by me, in company with Mr. F. E. Howe, F.Z.S., during a trip to one of the Mallee districts in North-west Victoria. It much resembles the Dusky Miner of Western Australia (*Myzantha obscura*), to which it is closely allied. It differs from that species in having the auricular patch conspicuously black and larger, and the abdomen a clear white, and also the yellow frontal patch less extensive, and an absence of the lighter colouring on the rump. The cross-barring also is different, and the bill and bare ocular patch have a deeper shade of yellow.

I propose the vernacular name of "Black-eared Miner" for the new bird. Three skins were secured.

### Description of a New Ptilotis.

BY A. W. MILLIGAN, R.A.O.U., MELBOURNE.

#### ***Ptilotis insularis*, sp. nov.**

*Adult Male.* — Crown of head and all upper surface distinct uniform dark brown, except the lower back, which is much deeper in colour; wings and tail margined on their external webs with greenish-yellow; lores, space around the eye, and broad line down the sides of the neck black; ear coverts chrome-yellow, behind which is a conspicuous spot of pure silky white; throat greyish-

white faintly washed with yellow; rest of under surface, including abdomen, sides of body, and under tail coverts, dark brown, relieved with yellowish-grey striations; irides dark brown; legs slate coloured; bill black. Measurements in inches:—Total length, 8.25; tail, 4; culmen, .75; tarsi, 1.

*Observations.*—The habitat of this bird is Rottnest Island, off Fremantle, Western Australia, where it is common. It is very like *Ptilotis sonora* in general appearance and colour markings but may be readily distinguished from that species by being more robust in all its proportions. The under surface of the new bird is uniformly dark brown, with striations, and lacks the whitish abdomen and under tail coverts of *P. sonora*. There are also many other minor differences in colouration. I have compared a number of the skins of the new species with skins of *P. sonora* from the mainland, Bernier Island, North-West Australia, South Australia, and Victoria. The type is in the Western Australian Museum, Perth, the director of which institution, Mr. Bernard H. Woodward, F.G.S., was kind enough to place the skins at my disposal. In the vernacular I suggest the name Rottnest Honey-eater for the new bird.

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### Stray Feathers.

**Frogmouths and Butcher-Birds.**—While reading my brother Harry's notes from Cape York, in *The Emu*, I was struck by the partiality which the Manucodes evince for the Black Butcher-Bird, apparently in almost every case building their nests close to those of the Butcher-Birds. In this connection it may be worth mentioning that some years ago, at "Coomoo," my brothers noticed a like partiality of the Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) for the common Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus destructor*). Numbers of the Frogmouths' nests were found one season, and, if not placed directly in the tree where the Butcher-Bird had its nest, were built in close proximity. Recognizing, I suppose, the Butcher-Bird's pugnacious habits, the Frogmouths took the opportunity of building near, so that the Butcher-Birds should defend their neighbours' homes as well as their own.—ERNEST D. BARNARD. Kurrajong, Gladstone (Q.), 29/7/11.

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**Scolding Honey-eaters.**—I notice some smaller birds have a very keen eye and a good memory for their enemies, the Hawk tribe. Some time ago I shot a Sparrow-Hawk which was making itself a nuisance in the poultry-yard, and, not making good work of the skin, threw it out on to a rubbish heap where the winter's pruning had been deposited. It fell down among the branches for some distance, almost out of sight; but it was not long before it was discovered by some Fuscous Honey-eaters (*Ptilotis fusca*), which assembled round the Hawk-skin, making a