

Kangaroo Island or Tasmanian bird. The latter shows a consistent brown colouration of upper parts, which is wanting in both of the smaller island forms.

Corvus australis (*tasmanicus*). Tasmanian Raven.—Many Ravens were seen flying high over the island. As soon as specimens were secured Mr. Mathews was supported in his making a sub-specific distinction, because the great size of the bill is evident at once in the Tasmanian form.

Strepera arguta. Hill Crow-Shrike.—Not numerous, and were very shy.

Collyriocincla rectirostris. Whistling Shrike-Thrush.—Fairly numerous on the island; call and habits seem identical with the Tasmanian bird.

[Gould procured the Ground-Parrot (*Pezoporus formosus*) on Flinders Island, and the party of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria observed the Pink-breasted Robin (*Petræca rhodinogastra*), 1893. Neither of these birds appears to have been seen by the present expedition. No doubt a *Calamanthus* and the Emu-Wren are also found there.—EDS.]

Descriptions of Three New Birds.

BY (CAPT.) S. A. WHITE AND J. W. MELLOR, MS.R.A.O.U.

THE following are descriptions of three new species of birds obtained during the working camp-out of the R.A.O.U. on Flinders Island (Furneaux Group), Bass Strait, during November, 1912:—

Falco melanotus (Black-backed Falcon), sp. nov.

Adult Female.—Forehead, crown of head, cheeks, ear coverts, and all the upper surface glossy black; primaries dull black, with exception of tips, and marked on the internal webs with oval spots of brown; two centre tail feathers almost black, with very indistinct markings of bluish-grey; remaining tail feathers black, marked with many spots (in some cases almond-shaped) of reddish-brown, all slightly tipped with buff; throat and head yellowish-white, some of the feathers of the latter slightly marked with black. All the under surface a rich rufous colour, many of the feathers marked down the centre with black, feathers on flank and thighs blotched strongly with black, upper tail coverts bluish-black, tipped with bluish-grey, centre of tail feathers marked with black. Iris brown; bill horn colour, black at tip; feet grey, nails black. Total length, 13 inches; wing, 10 inches.

Habitat.—Flinders Island (Furneaux Group).

Megalurus flindersi (Flinders Grass-Bird), sub-sp. nov.

Adult.—Upper surface dull brown, feathers of the mantle centred with dull black, marged with brown, turning into rufous-brown on the rump, where the black centre disappears. Primaries blackish-brown; secondaries becoming darker and narrowly edged with light brown on outer edge. Forehead dull rufous-brown, a line over the eye dull white; ear coverts dull white. Under surface dull greyish-white; chin, throat, and breast mottled, owing to the feathers having a small elongated central spot of dark brown; centre of abdomen dull greyish-white, passing into a rufous tinge

on the under tail coverts, the longer feathers having a dull brown centre; flank rusty-brown, some of the feathers having a broad blackish-brown central stripe. Tail dull brown, with darker brown shafts, the large centre feathers being very pointed at the tips. Iris dark brown, bill brown, feet horn.

Dimensions in inches:—Total length, 4.94; bill, .60; wing, 2.10; tail, 2.25; tarsus, .78.

Habitat.—Flinders Island (Furneaux Group). Inhabiting swampy and marshy land, where the birds keep closely to the bushes, and utter a plaintive three-note call.

Sericornis flindersi (Flinders Scrub-Wren), sub-sp. nov.

Adult Male.—Head, back of neck, back, and wings dark brown; rump and tail reddish-brown, spurious wing feathers black, strongly tipped with white, the centre of a few feathers faintly marked with brown; cheek and abdomen dull white, passing into yellowish-brown on the flanks; lores black; under tail coverts brown, tipped with white. Bill and feet brown.

Dimensions in inches:—Total length, 4.5; bill, .62; wing, 2.25; tarsus, .88.

Habitat.—Flinders Island (Furneaux Group).

Description of a New Cuckoo.

BY ALAN P. DODD, R.A.O.U., NELSON (N.Q.)

Cacomantis lineatus (Barred Cuckoo), sp. nov.

Female.—Back and upper wing coverts dark sub-metallic olive-green, each feather crossed with an irregular V-shaped light buff bar; primaries and secondaries slightly toothed with light buff. Head black, pencilled with rufous; the head colouration, when examined closely, contrasts with that of back. Upper tail coverts and tail dark sub-metallic olive-green, more or less toothed with rufous. Under surface of wing has an oblique white bar. Under wing coverts white, each feather with a single V-shaped dark sub-metallic olive-green bar. Throat dark sub-metallic olive-green barred with rufous, the centre of each feather pencilled with white. Lower throat similar, but the rufous colouring becomes paler, and on the chest blends into white. Towards the tail the white bars broaden, until on the abdomen the feathers have more white than olive-green. The bars of adjacent feathers not being symmetrical, the under surface does not show a uniform barred appearance as in *Chalcococcyx*, but is more marbled. Under tail coverts white, with five dark olive-green bars. Upper mandible blackish; lower mandible yellow, except the tip, which is blackish; gape yellow.

Dimensions in inches:—Length, 8; tail, 3.75; bill, 0.5.

Owing to the peculiar varied colouration of this bird, it is difficult to describe it accurately. The colouration reminds one