

by comparing it with the genus *Lamprotornis*. When thus compared Mr. Gould remarked that the species of *Aplornis* are altogether of a more robust form: the beak, which is distinctly notched, the wings, the legs, and the tail are shorter in proportion: the latter is slightly forked. It may also be distinguished by the want of the splendid colouring so remarkable in *Lamprotornis*, all the species of which are of a beautiful rich green colour, with a satin-like gloss . . . one species from New Holland, the other from the Friendly Islands." [*Aplonis marginata* Gould, *P.Z.S.*, 1836, p. 73.]

I have designated *A. fusca* as genotype.

#### NEW GENUS

The genotype of *Oxyura* Bonaparte, 1828, and of *Erismatura*, 1832, of the same author, is *Anas jamaicensis* Gmelin, which has twenty tail feathers.

In *The Birds of Australia*, vol. 4, p. 136, February 17, 1915, I fully diagnosed the genus as applied to the Australian bird described by Gould in 1837 as *Oxyura australis*, which has sixteen tail feathers, and therefore requires a genus name on account of this structural difference.

*Pervicauda* genus new, for *Oxyura australis* Gould, with sixteen tail feathers, thus differing from *A. jamaicensis*, which has twenty tail feathers.

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**Nesting Notes on the Fairy Martin.**—Notes given by L. C. Haines in a recent issue of *The Emu* (vol. 44, p. 234), concerning the persistence of Fairy Martins (*Hylochelidon ariel*) in keeping their nesting colonies in repair, despite the necessity of carrying material from a distance, apparently do not generally conform with observations of their nest-building activities.

On various occasions deserted nesting sites have been noted under culverts, which are built at frequent intervals on long stretches of 'formed' roads in inland areas. Many nests appear to have been but partly built, and signs show that the sites had been deserted before any breeding activities had commenced, evidently because the nearby water channel, which would be the source of their nesting material, had dried quickly in the absence of further rain.

While on a visit to Deniliquin, southern New South Wales, in November, 1941, a heavy shower of rain occurred on the day of my arrival, but persistent hot and dry weather continued for the remainder of the two weeks. A colony of Fairy Martins was observed, shortly after my arrival, industriously building nests under a culvert a short distance from the township, the material coming from a well-filled water pool close by. On my visiting the place again before returning home, I found it completely deserted, evidently because of the drying out of the pool before sufficient nests were completed. A continuous supply of material could easily have been secured from a dam only a few hundred yards distant, had the birds desired to utilize it.—A. R. MCGILL, Arncliffe, N.S.W., 22/2/45.