

CONCLUSION

What of the future? It is quite possible that our second year will be less successful than our first. The initial flush of enthusiasm can die down and the organizer finds it difficult to write personally to every participant to encourage the same or greater efforts. Moreover, this report will appear too late to stimulate recording for the 1965-66 season. Yet there are already 11 new participants since July 1, 1965. Perhaps more importantly this year's breeding in many places may be much poorer than in 1964-65 because of the drought; but if that can really be shown to affect the return of records, the scheme will be achieving one of its most important objects.

Finally may I urge all present contributors to maintain their efforts which have already produced such handsome results.

May I also urge others to come forward and record, especially in Western Australia, in all inland parts of Australia and in the Northern Territory. All these areas are poorly represented or have no representation at all. I have no doubt that the scheme is producing valuable information, but with a sustained effort it can make a really significant contribution to Australian ornithology.

One final word, will everyone who participates please read or re-read **carefully** the sheets of instructions supplied with the cards and do his best to fill in the cards as suggested.

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A second specimen of a female of *Cinclosoma castaneothorax*, Chestnut-breasted Quail-Thrush.—Sexual dimorphism in this rare and little known species has been described by Condon, *Rec. South Aust. Mus.*, 14, 1962, page 365, as follows: "In the male there is a glossy black throat; rich rust-red breast band edged with black; eyebrow buff; the rump and back are deep rust-red. The female has the throat and malar region orange-buff and the eyebrow is of the same colour. The breast, which is pale brown, merges into the dull cinnamon-brown of the flanks. There is no black on the under surface of the female, which has the back olive-brown and the rump reddish-brown, with indistinct darker streaks." The above description was based on three males and a single female—the only specimens known to science.

Through the kindness of Mr. John Disney, Curator of Birds, Australian Museum, Sydney, I have had the opportunity of examining an "adult female" obtained by him, on August 13, 1964, at Moombidary, West Hungerford, Queensland. Because of the dark edging to the breast band and dark (greyish-brown) throat, I was inclined to regard the bird as a young male, but Mr. Disney assures me that the gonads were dissected by himself and found to be those of a female. Apart from the differences just mentioned and a more extensive white patch on the abdomen, the specimen is much the same as the skin of the female housed in the South Australian Museum. I regard this latter bird as being in fully adult plumage, which is characterized by the orange-buff throat and malar region and extensive cinnamon-brown on the sides of body and flanks.

In my previous paper dealing with this species, I have hinted that I consider it most closely allied to *Cinclosoma castanotum*, Chestnut Quail-Thrush, rather than *C. cinnamomeum*, Cinnamon Quail-Thrush, and that any similarity in plumage colouration to the last-named should be ascribed to convergence rather than close relationship.

In juvenile females of *castanotum* a white malar stripe is present, as in adults, but the throat is mottled with dark grey and white. In older birds that have attained the size of adults, the throat and upper breast is still mottled, but paler owing to the gradual loss of the dark tips to the individual feathers. In fully adult birds the same plumage areas are uniform medium grey.

Now although the juvenile of *castaneothorax* is unknown, it is more than likely that the species passes through similar plumage stages to those of *castanotum* and that in the young the throat and upper breast is greyish, with the malar stripe orange-buff. The female from Moombidary could thus be regarded as showing the remnants of this juvenile plumage, which would have been replaced by uniform orange-buff feathering on the throat in the final stage. The only alternative, which I am unable to accept, is that, unlike any other member of the genus, *Cinclosoma castaneothorax* shows only minor plumage differences between the sexes. On the other hand, if my interpretation of the material at hand is correct, it would suggest that the closest allies of *castaneothorax* are *castanotum* and the New Guinea species, *C. ajax*; in the last-named the throat and malar region are uniform (pure white).

Details of specimen: Australian Museum No.: 0 40944; Field No.: Q151; date collected: August 13, 1964; locality: Moombidary, West Hungerford, south-western Queensland; habitat: "stony ridges and grass scrub patches between"; collector: H. J. Disney; sex: "female adult"; oviduct: "? curled on way up"; oocytes: "visible, largest grey and over 1 mm"; plumage: "primaries, secondaries, tertials, no moult, fresh"; "four centre tail feathers and upper tail coverts old and worn"; "rump no moult"; "new underwing coverts, except for one row"; "four outer tail feathers new"; iris: "dark grey brown"; bill: "horn grey"; feet: "dark grey olive"; length: 235 mm; wing span: 290; bill: estimated 15; wing: 95; tarsus: 29; tail: 96; weight: 66 gm. Skull: "hard". Note: as I have previously recorded, the wing and tail seem to be very slightly longer in males; the above measurements agree with those of skin of other known female; males have black bills and grey legs.—H. T. CONDON, South Australian Museum, Adelaide.