

D. novæ-hollandiæ.

		Tibia.		Metatarsus.		Femur.
		in.		in.		
1	...	15	...	14½	...	(None available)
2	...	15¾	...	14¾		
3	...	15	...	14¼		
4	...	16½	...	15		
5	...	15⅝	...	14¾		

In a notice of the subject written for the Royal Society, and read by the secretary at the meeting of 15th August, the writer proposed the name of *Dromæus bassi* for the King Island species, but, as this communication will not appear in print till the publication of the *Journal*, he submits the title now for this note in *The Emu*.

It is most desirable that some search should be instituted for the bones of our Tasmanian species. It affected principally remote hill marshes and upland plains and also open country on littoral of the north and east coasts. In the writer's opinion the best locality to prospect for the remains would be Kearney's Bogs, already mentioned. It can either be approached *viâ* Avoca, to which place one travels by the Fingal railway, or (equally well) by the Lake Leake road from Campbelltown to the great reservoir, some 12 or 15 miles from the township. The courteous proprietor of the Benham estate, Avoca, of which the Bogs are the summer sheep run, would no doubt be pleased to allow members of the Union to search them for traces of the extinct Emu, which, like so many interesting flightless forms of the great class *Aves*, has passed out of existence.

As the writer, during this opening meeting of our annual Congress, has learnt that Professor Baldwin Spencer, C.M.G., has just described the King Island Emu* from bones lent him by our Museum trustees, it is only right to state that this is the first indication conveyed to him of the Professor having worked out the subject. The name, therefore, *suggested* in the *earlier* communication, addressed to the Royal Society, becomes a synonym of the title bestowed on the bird by Professor Spencer.

Description of a New Bird-of-Paradise.

BY D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S., MELBOURNE.

Paradisornis rudolphi hunti, sub-species nova.

THE head, neck, and upper portion of back velvety black, with a greenish-coppery sheen on throat, sides of head and forehead; on back of head cherry-brown sheen; a white line above and below the eye of short white feathers, and a small bare patch

* See *Vict. Naturalist*, vol. xxiii., p. 139.

behind the eye. The back is blue and green mixed with black, and nearly black in appearance. The breast is blackish, in some light bluish or greenish, with a few blue feathers, terminating at the belly with a narrow blue band; on each side of the breast is a small patch of chestnut feathers, slightly mottled. The wings are greenish-blue above, but the lower primaries are black, edged with blue on their lower portion; the middle and lesser coverts and tertiaries on the inner webs are edged with light blue. The sides under the wing are chestnut, more or less mottled. The belly is satiny-black, with a broad band of reddish-chestnut at the vent.

The smaller set of ornamental plumes is a rich purplish-blue at their base, the outer portions being greenish-blue; the longer plumes measure up to $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length; on one side they are greenish-blue, on the other chestnut-brown; in *P. rudolphi* they measure 10 inches in length.

The tail is dark blue above, some of the feathers having their inner web black; underneath the colour is light blue. The two elongated tail feathers measure 17.06 inches; the shaft is light-coloured at the base, the rest black, except for about 4 inches on the under side at the end, where it is light blue; the feathers are dark blackish-purple above, underneath black with a slight violet hue, except the last 4 inches, which is light blue; the tip is spatula-shaped, but has no spot on the tip, as in *rudolphi*. The wings measure 6.25 inches, tail 3.5 inches, culmen 1.23 inches, and tarsus 1.5 inches; total length, 11.75 inches.

The principal differences between this bird and *P. rudolphi* are the colour and size of the two elongated tail feathers, the length and colour of the ornamental plumes, and the chestnut markings on the breast and sides. The description is of the male only, as I have not had any opportunity of seeing a female. I have named this bird after Mr. Atlee Hunt, the well-known Secretary of External Affairs in the Australian Commonwealth Government, he having procured the bird when in British New Guinea.

Observations on the Rearing of a Cuckoo.

BY A. G. CAMPBELL, MELBOURNE.

THIS season I have had opportunity of watching the rearing of a young Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) in a nest of the Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis osculans*). For some years a pair of *Sericornes* has lived in the garden of the School of Horticulture, Burnley, not four miles from the General Post-Office, the centre of Melbourne. The birds have met with somewhat indifferent success in endeavouring to rear young, for either