



- 1.—Bill of *Neonectris tenuirostris brevicaudus*.
- 2.—Bill of *Neonectris tenuirostris grantianus*.
- 3.—Bill of *Neonectris tenuirostris intermedius*.
- 4.—Bill of *Cinathisma cyaneoleuca*.

land; Mr. J. W. Mellor, Lockley, Fulham, South Australia; Mr. W. B. Alexander, M.A., Cottesloe, Western Australia; Mr. W. L. May, Sandford, Tasmania; Mr. W. R. B. Oliver, H.M. Customs, Auckland, New Zealand; Mr. G. F. Hill, F.G.S., Darwin, Northern Territory.

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## Description of two New Petrels.

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THE birds here described were taken during a visit to Murrumbidgee Island (otherwise known as Brush Island), south of Ulladulla, New South Wales. *Cinathisma cyaneoleuca* occurred in considerable numbers, two separate flocks being encountered on the open sea, and five specimens (three male and two female) were secured. This bird has a remarkable short fluttering flight, quite unlike that of any other members of the *Puffinidae* common to the New South Wales coast. *Neonectris tenuirostris grantianus* was found dead on the beach at Ulladulla and on Brush Island in large numbers. Most examples were decomposed, but identifiable by the short tail. Two dead, but perfectly fresh, specimens were secured (one at each locality), and proved to be male and female. I associate this sub-species with Messrs. Robert and Henry Grant, the taxidermists to the Australian Museum, both of whom have frequently accompanied me on my island trips, and prepared the skins of all specimens taken.

### *Cinathisma*, gen. nov.

Differs from *Puffinus* in the stronger bill, shorter in proportion to length of bird; shorter wing, tail square (not rounded); rectrices, 9.

### *Cinathisma cyaneoleuca*, sp. nov.

Whole upper surface and flanks dark slaty-blue, feathers of flanks, wing and tail coverts margined with white, the lesser wing coverts more distinctly margined; under surface white; sides of neck dark slaty-blue, in some specimens extending more than half-way across the throat, gradually merging into the white. Total length, 13 to 13½ inches; wing, 8 inches; tail, 3 inches; culmen, 1½ inches; tarsus, 1½ inches; middle toe and claw, 2 inches; inner toe, 1½ inches.

Coloration of soft parts:—Iris hazel; bill, upper mandible lead

colour, black line on top; lower mandible bluish; nail black; feet, interdigital membrane lead colour margined with black, under side black; outer toe black, middle toe with black spot on each joint; claws black.

Both sexes are alike in plumage.

Type locality, Ulladulla, N.S.W.

***Neonectris tenuirostris grantianus*, sub-sp. nov.**

Differs from *N. t. brevicaudus* (Gould) in its larger size, more robust bill, and light ashy colour of the chin and neck; the throat and abdomen are lighter, and the light and dark shades of the upper surface are more marked. Differs from *N. t. intermedius* (Hull) in its shorter and less robust bill, and generally smaller size. Total length,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches; wing,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches; tail,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; tarsus,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; culmen,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches; interdigital membrane lead colour, with sooty margins; outer toe black; tarsus lead colour inside, sooty outside.

Both sexes alike in plumage.

Type locality, Ulladulla, N.S.W.

Type skins in collection of Mr. H. L. White, Belltrees, N.S.W.

The differences in the bills of the three species are clearly shown in the accompanying illustration.

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## A Valuable Offer.

A WELL-WISHER of ornithology has offered, without condition, a cash donation of £1,000 for the purpose of procuring a central room where members of the R.A.O.U. may meet, work, and discuss ornithological problems. Members have taken up the matter enthusiastically, and it is hoped that soon the valuable library and working collections of skins, eggs, and nests will be available in a convenient place. The Council highly appreciates this handsome offer. The donor has asked us not to mention his name.