

Fig. 18.—Superior view of the skull of *Ædicnemus bistrifurcus*; mandible articulated. (No. 90,996, Coll. U.S. Nat. Mus.) This skull was apparently obtained from a discarded skin, as the entire occipital and basilar portions have been cut out and thrown away.

Fig. 19.—Superior view of the skull of *Rissa tridactyla*, mandible removed. (No. 18,169, Coll. U.S. Nat. Mus.)

New Records for South-Western Australia.

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ON the retirement of Mr. B. H. Woodward, Director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery, the collection of birds has come into my charge. In the course of re-arrangement and revision of names, which I have been undertaking during the last few weeks, I have discovered that there are specimens of several species in the collection which had not previously been recorded from south-west Australia. I have only carried the process of revision as far as the latest part of Mr. Gregory M. Mathews' "Birds of Australia" goes, but propose to continue as each part of that work appears.

Porzana fluminea (Gould). Australian Spotted Crane.

The "Official Check-list" gives Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania as habitat. Mr. Mathews has separated the South Australian bird under the subspecific name of *whitei* (*Austral Avian Record*, vol. i., p. 73), characterized by being "much lighter grey on the under surface." The examples before me, a male and a young bird only partly fledged, were collected at Herdsman's Lake, near Perth, by Mr. Ostle, in January, 1901. The male appears to agree in every respect with the description given in Mathews' "Birds of Australia," vol. i., p. 212, but its breast is considerably darker grey than that of the specimen shown in the accompanying figure, which is a "male, collected near Adelaide, South Australia." I conclude, therefore, that the Western Australian bird agrees with *P. f. fluminea*, and not with *P. f. whitei*, as might have been anticipated. I have, however, no skins from the eastern States with which to compare it.

Diomedea chlororhynchus (Gmelin). Yellow-nosed Albatross.

There is a specimen of this bird in the Museum which was obtained at Cottesloe Beach, near Fremantle, by Mrs. Campbell, in 1901. The species is not infrequent off the coast in winter, especially off Albany, and the Check-list mentions the seas of W. and N.W. Australia as included in the range of the bird. The following quotation from Mathews' "Birds of Australia," vol. ii., p. 282, suggests that no other specimen of this bird from Western

Australia has been preserved:—"Mr. Gilbert states that he saw it flying about Rottneest Island, on the western coast. The latter observation would seem to apply to the bird at present called *Th. c. carteri*, Rothschild, and known by the unique specimen only. Whether the adult of *Th. c. carteri* will differ from the adult of *Th. c. bassi* is at present unknown, but the probability is in the affirmative." The specimen before me is an immature male in full adult plumage, and it agrees with the description of *Thalassogeron chlororhynchus bassi* (Mathews), except that there are no patches of grey on the side of the breast. There is a slight streak in front of the eye. The question then arises whether this is the adult form of *Diomedea carteri* (Rothschild). That species was characterized chiefly by the bill being entirely black, but Mr. Mathews has shown, I think, that young birds may attain the adult plumage and continue to retain the immature colouration of the bill. Other points noted by Rothschild are that the face and sides of the head are white, without the grey tinge of *T. chlororhynchus*, but it appears that *T. c. bassi* (Mathews) is similar in this respect.

From my observations, I should suppose that the black-billed bird is much commoner on the west coast in winter than the yellow-nosed form. I had considerable opportunity for observing them when on the Federal trawler *Endeavour* in May and June, 1912, between Fremantle and Geraldton, and I never saw a yellow-nosed specimen. Whenever the trawl was brought to the surface the Mollymawks assembled and greedily devoured the small fish which escaped from the net. It would be very interesting to know whether a similar preponderance of black-billed forms is met with in Eastern Australian waters. If not, it would point to the conclusion that *Diomedea carteri* is a distinct species. The bill in the present specimen agrees precisely with that of *T. c. bassi* in colouration, and the feet and legs are flesh-coloured, with traces of blue-grey on the legs and toes. There is a second specimen in the collection which came to the Museum from the Perth Zoological Gardens, to which it was presented by the captain of a ship. It agrees with the specimen described in every feature, except that there are brownish streaks on the breast and that the yellow portion of the bill is decidedly greenish. It is also a young male, and it seems very probable that it also was obtained on the west coast.

Heteropriion desolatus (Gmelin). Australian Dove-Prion.

A female specimen of this bird is in the collection. It was picked up on the North Beach, the nearest point to Perth on the coast, in May, 1912, by Master Jack Brown. Under the name of *Prion banksi* (Gould), the range of this species is given in the "Check-list" as "Seas of S. Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, S. and W. Australia, Tasmania." Mr. Mathews, in his "Birds of Australia," gives the range of *Heteropriion desolatus mattingleyi* as "Australian seas," but he remarks that "it appears almost

impossible to separate the synonymy of this bird from that of *Pseudopriion turtur*." In the "List of the Birds of Australia" he gives the range as "Victoria," evidently not feeling sure that records of this species from the other States are correct. Having carefully compared my specimen with the descriptions and diagrams in the "Birds of Australia," I have no hesitation in assigning it to *Heteropriion desolatus*, and I have little doubt that it belongs to the sub-species *mattingleyi*, as this is stated to have a narrower bill than any other sub-species, and the bill in my example agrees exactly with the figure of that of *mattingleyi* given in the "Birds of Australia."

Rhyacophilus glareola (Linn). Wood-Sandpiper.

There is a specimen of this species in the Museum which was shot by Mr. J. T. Tuuney on 2nd February, 1900, at Kelmscott, which is situated on the Canning River, 16 miles south-east of Perth. In the "Birds of Australia" Mr. Mathews says:—"This bird was first added to the Australian list in 1896, when vol. xxiv. of the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum was published, from birds collected by the late Bowyer Bower in North-West Australia. Mr. Mattingley, in *The Emu* of ten years later, recorded it from Victoria. I now extend its Australian distribution, as I have birds collected in North-West Australia, Northern Territory, and Queensland." He does not mention that the British Museum Catalogue also records specimens collected by Sturt in South Australia. Though not an addition to the fauna of the State, this appears to be the first time that its occurrence in the south-west has been put on record. No doubt it belongs to the Eastern sub-species, *R. g. affinis*, Horsf., but I have no information at hand as to how this differs from the Western form.

Dendrocygna javanica gouldi (Gould). Whistling Duck.

There is a specimen of this Duck in the collection which was shot by Mr. Hutchinson at Wanneroo, 16 miles north of Perth, in 1899. Though the "Check-list" gives the range of the species *D. arcuata*, Gould, as "Australia generally," Mr. Mathews gives "North-West Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria," both in the "List" and in the more recent part of the "Birds of Australia." It would seem, therefore, that its occurrence in south and south-west Australia had never been recorded, and I hereby supply the deficiency for the latter.

Birds and Caterpillars.—Recently I saw a Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus melanops*) devouring caterpillars of the Emperor Gum Moth (*Antheræa eucalypti*). These caterpillars are very large, and are popularly supposed to be objectionable to birds.
—T. H. TREGELLAS. Melbourne, 21/4/15.