

obtained on his passage from Hobart Town to Sydney ("Hand-book," vol. ii., p. 446).

Mathews writes (Supplement, i., p. 109):—"I do not know of any authentic skins of this species that were taken in Australian waters. Although Gould said he killed specimens, *none are in his collection*, and we must wait till others are caught." The species is therefore entirely omitted from his latest list.

1673. This bird is very obviously different from the preceding, though, like it, labelled *Procellaria hasitata*. It is an example of one of the forms of *Puffinus kuhli*, and, as Dr. Stone has noted on the stand of the specimen, is not improbably Gould's *Procellaria flavirostris*—perhaps actually the type—which was procured by Sir George Grey off the Cape of Good Hope on one of his voyages to Australia.

1680. This is the type of Gould's *P. leucoptera*.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to Dr. Stone for his courtesy, and to point out, in case of any misapprehension, that in referring to mistakes of labelling I am referring to the old Gould-Verreaux names written on the stands, not to those which they now bear in the Academy Museum; these are, of course, the correct modern scientific names.

## Birds Visiting Cape York Peninsula and New Guinea.

BY H. G. VIDGEN, PAIRA, CAPE YORK.

BIRDS which make a regular annual migration from New Guinea to Cape York, and *vice versa*:—The Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), the Spangled Drongo (*Chibja bracteata*), the White-tailed Kingfisher (*Tanysiptera sylvia*), the Koel or Flinders Cuckoo (*Eudynamis cyanocephala*), the Nutmeg-Pigeon (*Myristicivora spilorrhoa*), the Blue-breasted Pitta (*Pitta mackloti*), and the Shining Starling (*Aplonis metallica*).

A few odd birds of both *M. ornatus* and *C. bracteata* are here right through the year. I am inclined to the idea that the Lesser Pitta (*P. simillima*) is also migratory. Some birds are certainly to be seen and heard all through the year, but the same logic also applies to the Bee-eater and Drongo. The Pitta, being purely a scrub-dweller and a ground-bird, is difficult of observation; in my opinion these facts alone have won for it the name of being non-migratory. From personal observation I am sure that they are much decreased in numbers after March. These remarks are applicable only as regards the locality of Paira, Cape York.

Birds which make irregular migrations from New Guinea to Cape York:—The Little Topknot-Pigeon (*Lopholaimus antarcticus minor*), the White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), the Spoonbill, and the Channelbill Cuckoo (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*).

When pearl-shelling on the ocean beds to the north-west of Thursday Island I have seen large flocks of Spoonbills and Ibises making their flights to and from New Guinea. I did not notice them every year. As far as memory serves, these migrations were generally at the latter end of the year—during September, October, and November. The Channelbill (*Scythrops*) is rather a difficult bird to place; a few may be seen almost the whole year through. Some years they are plentiful during June, July, and August, but not regularly. In two different years I saw them in flocks of up to a dozen on Mulgrave Island; on both occasions this was in the latter end of April and early May. They were feeding on the wild figs when seen. The direction of their flight I could not ascertain, but they are not permanent on Mulgrave Island. We do not see many of these birds at or near Paira. If there are any about they are sure to be found in the vicinity of Somerset, three miles from here. Just why they favour that particular locality it is difficult to say; food is certainly not the factor, as the wild figs on which they chiefly feed are widely and plentifully distributed.

Birds which make an annual appearance at Cape York. They come and go with regularity as regards the time of the year, but, unlike the migratory birds, they are seen but once. Whence they come and where they go is a matter of conjecture:—The Australian Roller or Dollar-Bird (*Eurystomus pacificus*), the Chestnut-breasted Finch (*Munia castaneothorax*), a Swift, a Swiftlet, the Pied Grallina or Magpie-Lark (*Grallina picata*), Sea-Curlew (*Numenius cyanopus*), the Whimbrel (*N. phaeopus*), and two varieties of Quail.

Of these birds only the Finch and Quail are definitely known to breed during their sojourn in this locality. At different times I have seen *Munia castaneothorax* on Banks and Mulgrave Islands—the last islands of importance in the chain stretching from Queensland towards New Guinea on the western boundary of Torres Strait.

### Notes on the Domestic Habits of the Spotted-sided Finch (*Stagonopleura guttata*).

By (Mrs.) S. T. W. NORTON, R.A.O.U., BOREE, WALCHA, N.S.W.

WHEN we first settled in the New England district, ten years ago (1910), I do not remember seeing any of these little birds about near the homestead; but so soon as our newly-planted trees and shrubs began to attain some growth and thickness of foliage the Finches (known locally as "Diamond-Sparrows" or "Red-tails") began to come into the garden through the summer months. The first pair I observed here arrived about March, 1916, and began at once building a nest in a rose arch near the house. They did not lay any eggs or rear any young ones that autumn, but used