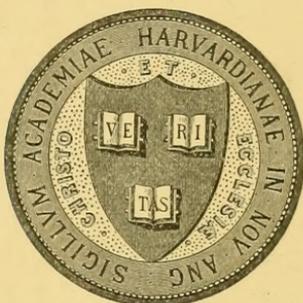


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A LIST

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OF THE



INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES;

8 colored & 2 plain Plates

BY

ALFRED J. NORTH, C.M.Z.S.,

ORNITHOLOGIST OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.



SYDNEY: CHARLES POTTER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1896.

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A List of the Insectivorous Birds of New South Wales.

By ALFRED J. NORTH, C.M.Z.S.,
Ornithologist to the Australian Museum.

IN the following list of the insectivorous birds of New South Wales a reference is given to where an accurate figure of each species may be found; also to a more detailed description of its nest or a figure of its egg. The vernacular name of each bird is given, and, by request, as far as possible, its local appellation. Care, however, must be taken in the use of the latter class of nomenclature, for a local name is often more apt to mislead and confuse than to assist one in recognising the particular species on which it is bestowed. This is chiefly due to the same local name being applied to two or more species. For instance, *Corcorax melanorhamphus*, *Xerophila leucopsis*, and *Myzantha garrula* are all locally known in different parts of the Colony by the name of "Squeaker."

A brief description of the nidification of each species is also given to enable those who are unacquainted with the economy of our avi-fauna to recognise the nests and eggs of insectivorous birds beneficial or harmful to the pursuits of man.

Several useful papers on the subject have appeared in the official magazine of the Department of Agriculture. One by the Honorable Dr. James Norton, M.L.C., entitled "Australian Birds; Useful and Noxious,"* in which sixty-seven species are specially referred to, besides many others in general terms. This paper, the result of many years' observation and practical experience, in addition to containing other valuable information, deals principally with the good and bad qualities of birds so far as they affect the agriculturist and horticulturist, and the particular kind of food each species subsists upon. In the same journal (Appendix F, p. 240), Dr. E. P. Ramsay, F.L.S., F.R.S.E., also contributes a paper on "Birds Useful to Agriculturists, Fruit-growers, and Farmers," and enumerates eighty-nine insectivorous birds usually found in and about the farms, gardens, and orchards of the Colony. The food of many species is given, also a reference number to his "Tabular List of Australian Birds," which shows the further range of each species over the continent. A third paper also appears in the same number, p. 151, by Mr. A. G. Hamilton, of Mount Kembla, entitled, "Birds which are Enemies or Friends of Fruit-growers." In this list the writer divides the 108 insectivorous or partially insectivorous birds enumerated into three groups, giving their distribution east or west of the

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* Department of Agriculture, N.S.W.; Bull. No. 1, App. G., p. 245 (1890).

Dividing Range, and notes as to their food. A fourth group, consisting entirely of the parrots found in the Colony, is included under the heading of "Birds living on Grain and Fruit, very destructive."

I have adopted a similar plan as regards the insectivorous birds included in this list, dividing the different species into three groups, as follows:—

1st. Those exclusively insectivorous, and, unless otherwise stated, beneficial.

2nd. Those partially insectivorous; also beneficial.

3rd. Those both insectivorous and frugivorous—more or less harmful.

Although I have termed many species migratory, for they make their appearance in New South Wales chiefly during the spring and summer months, with the exception of *Chatura caudacuta*, *Cypselus pacificus*, *Merops ornatus*, *Eurystomus pacificus*, and *Petrochelidon nigricans*, they are truly only nomads, and do not leave the Australian continent. It is well known that immense flocks of the three latter species arrive at and take their departure from Cape York every year, but it is not improbable that large numbers remain to winter in Australia.

The normal food of the birds included in the first group consisting entirely of insects of various kinds, no further reference will be made to it.

1.—Birds Exclusively Insectivorous.

1. *ÆGOTHELES NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ*, *Vig. and Horsf.* "Owlet Nightjar."

Ægotheles novæ-hollandiæ, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 1 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 26, pl. xiv, fig. 11 (1889).

A resident and nocturnal species, resorting to the hollow limbs of trees during the daytime, also for the purpose of breeding. Although widely dispersed, it is seldom met with. Eggs pure white, length 1.15 x 0.87 inch.

2. *EUROSTOPUS ALBIGULARIS*, *Vig. and Horsf.* "White-throated Nightjar."

Eurostopodus albigularis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 7 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 28, pl. xi, fig. 3 (1889).

A nocturnal species, generally met with about dusk, and more especially in the neighbourhood of tanks and waterholes. This bird is possessed of rapid powers of flight, and captures a large number of insects while on the wing. It breeds upon the ground, depositing a single egg, usually upon the side of some gravelly ridge or near a stone or fallen log. The egg is of a cream ground colour, sparingly spotted with black, or blackish-brown markings; length 1.5 x 1.1 inch.

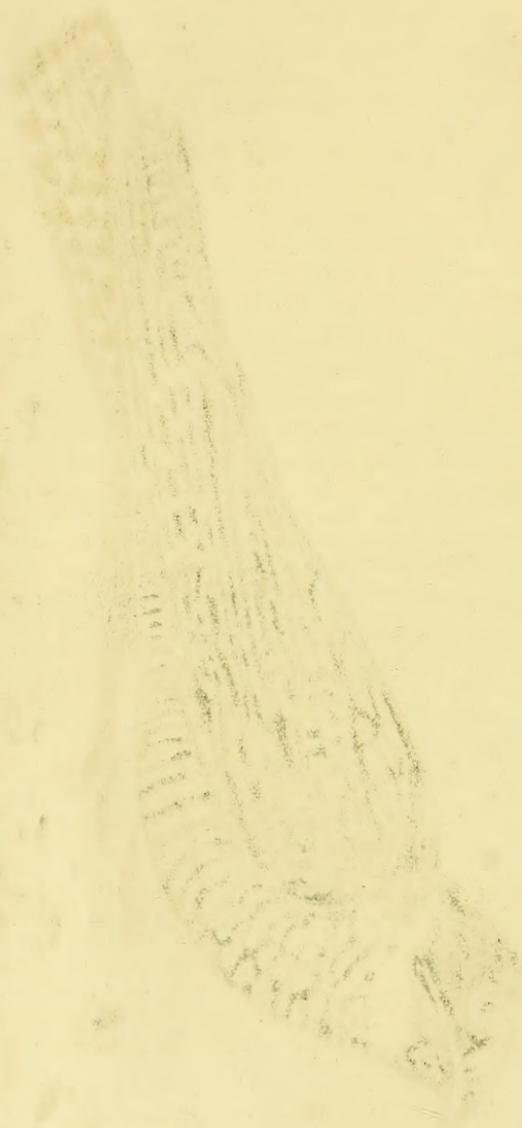
3. *EUROSTOPUS GUTTATUS*, *Vig. and Horsf.* "Spotted Nightjar."

Eurostopodus guttatus, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 8 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 27, pl. xi, fig. 2 (1889).

The habits of this species are similar to those of the White-throated Nightjar, sleeping or resting upon the ground during the day, and procuring its food while on the wing at dusk or in the twilight. Although widely distributed, both are comparatively rare species. Egg dull greenish-white, sparingly spotted with black; length, 1.38 x 1 inch.



EUROSTOOPUS ALBIGULARIS, Vig & Horsf
White-throated Nightjar.



4. CHÆTURA CAUDACUTA, *Latham* "Spine-tailed Swift."

Acanthylis caudacuta, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 10 (1848).

A migratory species, flocks of which arrive in New South Wales during the hottest months of the year. Like the following species, it passes the whole of the day on the wing. Breeds in northern China.

5. CYPSELUS PACIFICUS, *Latham*. "White-rumped Swift."

Cypselus australis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 11 (1848).

A summer visitant to Australia, arriving about the same time and frequently seen in company with the above species. It breeds in southern Siberia. Large numbers of these birds appeared in the neighbourhood of Sydney during the unusually hot weather of January, 1896.

6. HIRUNDO NEOXENA, *Gould*. "Common House Swallow," "Welcome Swallow."

Hirundo neoxena, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 13 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 30 (1889).

This common and well-known species arrives in large numbers in New South Wales during the month of July, and takes its departure again about the end of May. A few straggling pairs, however, remain in the localities they once were plentiful throughout the winter. When frequenting our cities and towns the nest of this Swallow is placed upon any narrow ledge of woodwork or masonry, but usually a site is chosen that is protected by a verandah. In the country districts it is more often built about stables and outbuildings, while on the rocky portions of our coast its nest is placed upon the cliffs. Eggs, four or five in number, white, sprinkled with yellowish and reddish brown markings, and underlying freckles of bluish-grey; length, 0.74 x 0.58 inch.

7. LAGENOPLASTES ARIEL, *Gould*. "Fairy Martin," "Bottle Swallow."

Collocalia ariel, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 15 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 32 (1889).

A migratory species arriving in New South Wales in July. It breeds in communities, building retort-shaped nests of mud under the eaves of houses, the shelter of an overhanging rock or river-bank, and occasionally in the hollow trunk of some large tree. Hundreds of the nests of this species may be seen underneath the capping of the stone piers of the railway bridge that crosses the Nepean River at Penrith. With but few exceptions, these birds take their departure at the end of April. Eggs usually five in number for a sitting, some being pure white, others marked with yellowish-brown spots on the larger end; length, 0.73 x 0.48 inch.

8. PETROCHELIDON NIGRICANS, *Vieillot*. "Tree Swallow."

Collocalia arborea, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 14 (1848).

Petrochelidon nigricans, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 32, pl. XIII, fig. 14 (1889).

Although migratory, a few stragglers remain throughout the year. Breeds in September and October, depositing its eggs, three or four in number, on the decaying wood or dust in the hollow branch of a tree; they are fleshy-white with a zone of minute freckles of light rusty-brown and greyish-lilac on the larger end, others are uniformly marked over the entire surface of the shell; length, 0.73 x 0.55 inch. Flocks of these birds seen at Ashfield, June 21st, 1896.

9. *CHERAMÆCA LEUCOSTERNUM*, *Gould*. "White-breasted Swallow,"
"Black and White Swallow."

Atticora leucosternon, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 12 (1848).
Cheramæca leucosternum, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., pp. 33, 383,
pl. XIII, fig. 14 (1889).

A resident species, generally met with in small flocks, from five to seven in number, but only in the interior and western districts of the Colony. It breeds in small communities during October and November, boring a tunnel from 8 inches to 2 feet in the side of a dry creek or dam, and frequently in the sides of the entrances to the burrows of the common Rabbit-like Bandicoot, *Peragale lagotis*, at the extremity of which it deposits from four to six pure white eggs; length, 0.68 x 0.5 inch. The greater portion of the day is passed by this Swallow on the wing, and in common with all the members of the family *Hirundinidæ*, it is a destroyer of large numbers of insects.

10. *MEROPS ORNATUS*, *Latham*. "Australian Bee-eater."

Merops ornatus, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 16 (1848);
North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 34 (1889).

This attractive bird is strictly migratory, arriving in New South Wales early in October, and departing again at the end of March. Like the preceding species, for the purposes of breeding, it tunnels a hole in the soft sandy soil, generally in a sloping bank, at the extremity of which a chamber is hollowed out, and five or six pure white eggs deposited therein. The eggs measure 0.87 inch in length by 0.72 inch in breadth. This species does not find favour with apiarists, for, amongst other insects destroyed by it, bees, as its vernacular name implies, when obtainable, constitute no small portion of its food.

11. *EURYSTOMUS PACIFICUS*, *Latham*. "The Australian Roller," or "Dollar Bird."

Eurystomus australis, Gould., Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 17 (1848).
Eurystomus pacificus, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 35, pl. XIV,
fig. 7 (1889).

A migratory species arriving in New South Wales, usually during the month of October, and departing again at the end of March. I have seen young birds, however, that were taken from the nesting-place in the hollow bough of a eucalyptus near Newcastle on the 2nd of October, 1892, but this was an exceptional instance. This bird nests in the hollow limbs of trees, and lays three or four pearly-white eggs for a sitting; length, 1.45 x 1.08 inch. Its food consists chiefly of beetles.

12. *ARTAMUS SORDIDUS*, *Lath.* "Sombre Wood-Swallow," "Dusky Wood-Swallow," "Tree Martin."

Artamus sordidus, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 27 (1848);
North, Nests and Eggs Austr. Bds., p. 42, pl. VIII, fig. 14 (1889).

A familiar and well-known species to agriculturists and orchardists; it arrives in large flocks during September, and departs again at the end of March, a few straggling pairs remaining throughout the year. The nest of this species is a shallow cup-shaped structure, outwardly composed of thin twigs, and lined inside with fibrous roots or fine grasses, and is placed usually between the forked limbs of some rough-barked tree, or held in position by



MEROPS ORNATUS, Lath.
Australian Bee-eater.
ARTAMUS SORDIDUS, Lath.
Sombre Wood Swallow



a projecting piece of bark from the trunk of a tree. The eggs are three in number for a sitting, of a dull white, spotted with dark brown or brownish-black markings, particularly at the larger end; length, 0·88 x 0·67 inch. Upon their arrival, and before separating into pairs, and again when flocking, immediately before taking their departure, these birds have the peculiar habit, when roosting at night, of clinging to each other in large clusters similar to swarms of bees. Like all the members of the genus, the food of this species consists exclusively of insects and their larvæ. It is very destructive to bees. In the Colo Vale District, several apiarists have lost almost their entire stock by the wholesale depredations of this Wood-Swallow. Three specimens shot by Mr. R. Etheridge, the Curator of the Australian Museum, in that locality on the 8th of September, 1894, were found to be perfectly gorged with these industrious and valuable insects.

13. *ARTAMUS SUPERCILIOSUS*, *Gould*. "White-eyebrowed Wood-Swallow."

Artamus superciliosus, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 32 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 47 (1889).

A migratory species abundantly distributed in the western portions of New South Wales, and which seldom visits the districts near the coast. During the excessively dry season of 1895, these birds made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Sydney, and where they had not been seen for twenty years. It is also destructive to bees, but compensates for this mischief by the immense amount of good it does in destroying large quantities of noxious insects. The same remark applies to all the species of this genus.

14. *ARTAMUS PERSONATUS*, *Gould*. "Masked Wood-Swallow."

Artamus personatus, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., pl. 31 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs Austr. Bds., p. 44 (1889).

A spring visitant to the inland portions of the Colony, arriving about the end of September in company with *A. superciliosus*, the two species frequently associating together in flocks, and breeding near each other. The nest is an exceedingly frail structure formed of a few thin twigs and grasses, and is placed in the fork of a low tree, or in the cavity at the top of a hollow stump. It lays two or three eggs, usually the former number, of a greyish-white ground colour, spotted and blotched all over with light brown markings, and a few underlying spots of grey; length, 0·84 x 0·67 inch. In the mode of nidification, and the number and colour of its eggs, *A. personatus* closely resembles the preceding species.

15. *ARTAMUS LEUCOGASTER*, *Valenc*. "White-rumped Wood-Swallow."

Artamus leucopygialis, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 33 (1848).

Artamus leucogaster, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 43 (1889).

A resident species in the interior of New South Wales, seldom found far away from the vicinity of water. This bird rarely constructs a nest like the other species of Wood-Swallows, but relines the deserted mud nest of *Grallina picata*, wherein to deposit its eggs, which are three in number for a sitting, of a dull white spotted and blotched with faint markings of yellowish-brown, reddish-brown, and underlying spots of bluish-grey; length, 0·92 x 0·63 inch. Although widely distributed over the Australian Continent, it is by no means a common species.

16. *ARTAMUS MELANOPS*, *Gould*. "Black-faced Wood-Swallow."

Artamus melanops, Gould, Suppl. to Bds. of Austr., fol. ed., pl. 7 (1869); North, Nests and Eggs Austr. Bds., p. 46, pl. VIII, fig. 13 (1889).

This is a resident species in the western districts and the interior of New South Wales. It breeds during September, and the three following months, constructing a round open nest of dried stems of herbaceous plants or fibrous roots, and lined inside with fine wiry grasses, and which is usually placed in some low tree or shrub, and occasionally in top of a hollow stump. Eggs, four in number for a sitting, of a fleshy-white ground colour, spotted and blotched all over with bright red or reddish-brown markings; length, 0.87 x 0.67 inch. The Black-faced Wood-Swallow is never seen in the coastal districts of New South Wales.

17. *ARTAMUS ALBIVENTRIS*, *Gould*. "White-vented Wood-Swallow."

Artamus albiventris, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 30 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds.

Inhabits the northern and north-western portions of the Colony. Comparatively rare in New South Wales, as is also the following species.

18. *ARTAMUS MINOR*, *Gould*. "Little Wood-Swallow."

Artamus minor, Gould, Bds. of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 28 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs Austr. Bds., p. 47 (1889).

Confined to the northern portions of New South Wales.

19. *PARDALOTUS PUNCTATUS*, *Temm*. "Spotted Diamond-bird."

Pardalotus punctatus, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 35 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 48 (1889).

A familiar and resident species found over most parts of New South Wales, and more particularly in our heavily timber-clad ranges, and open forest country near the coast. It is a fearless and active little bird, and may be often seen diligently searching for insects among the leafy twigs of some low tree in our parks or gardens. For the purposes of breeding, it tunnels a hole in a bank, or in the side of some slight depression in the ground, at the extremity of which it constructs a beautifully woven nest of strips of bark, and deposits therein four pure white eggs; length, 0.6 x 0.5 inch.

20. *PARDALOTUS MELANOCEPHALUS*, *Gould*. "Black-headed Diamond-bird."

Pardalotus melanocephalus, Gould, Bds. of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 40 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 52 (1889).

In New South Wales the range of the Black-headed Pardalote is confined to the northern coastal districts. It is freely dispersed throughout the scrubs of the Clarence, Richmond, and Tweed Rivers, and usually breeds during August and the five following months. Nests, however, with eggs have been obtained in May and June. Eggs white; length, 0.67 x 0.54 inch.

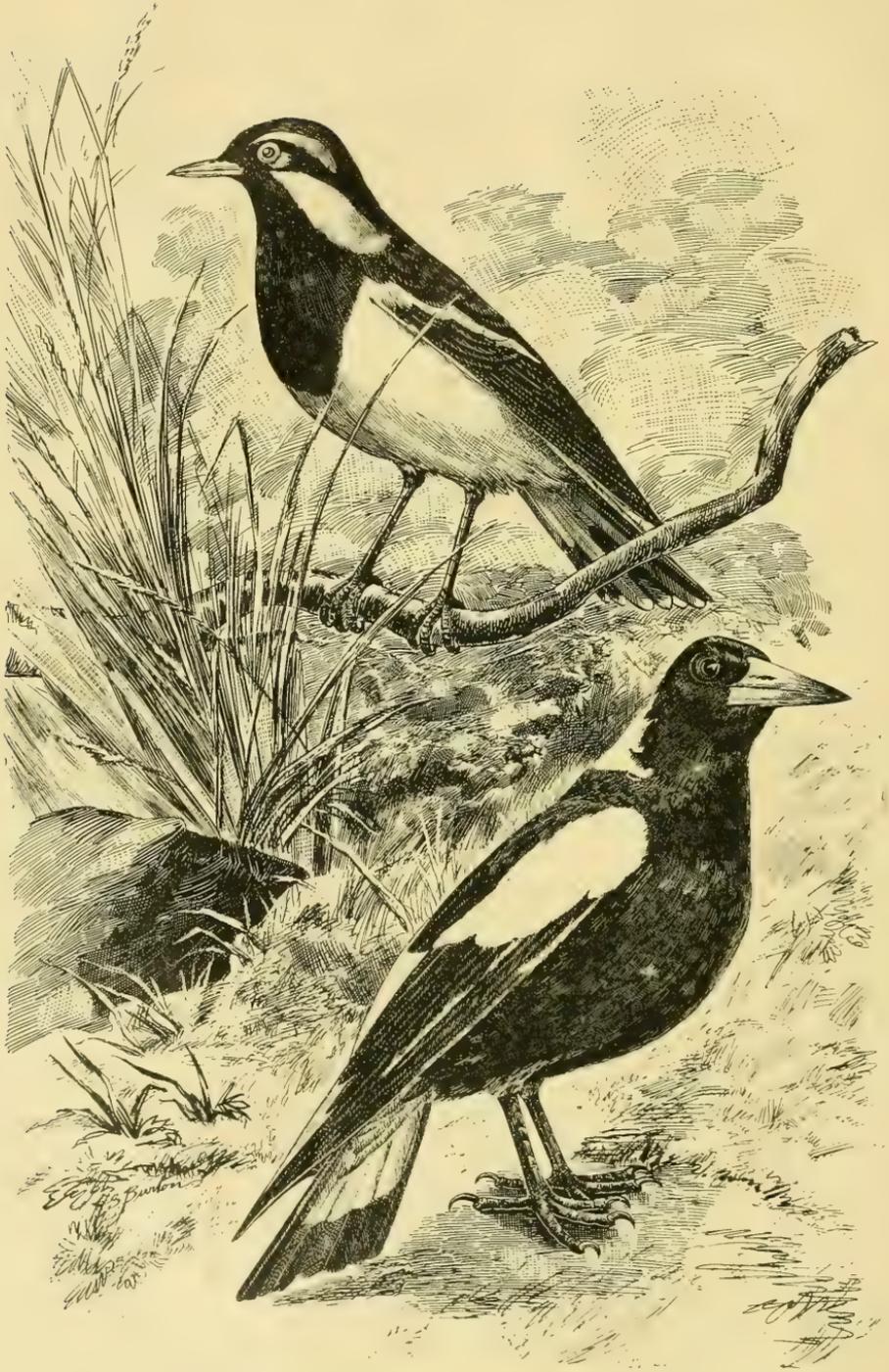


PARDALOTUS ORNATUS, Temm.
Striated Diamond-Bird.

PARDALOTUS PUNCTATUS, Temm.
Spotted Diamond-Bird.







Grallina picata, Lath.
"Pied Grallina."

Gymnorhina tibicen, Lath.
"Black-backed Crow Shrike."

(116 17-96)

Plate IV.

21. PARDALOTUS AFFINIS, *Gould*. "Allied Diamond-bird."

Pardalotus affinis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II., pl. 39 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 51 (1889).

Common in the tall *Eucalypti* of south-eastern New South Wales. It differs from either of the preceding species by constructing a nest of bark and grasses in the hollow limb of a tree. Eggs white; length, 0·72 x 0·55 inch.

22. PARDALOTUS ORNATUS, *Temm.* "Striated Diamond-bird."

Pardalotus striatus, Gould, Bds. Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II., pl. 38 (1848).

Pardalotus ornatus, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 50 (1889).

A resident species freely dispersed throughout the inland portions of New South Wales. It is an indefatigable destroyer of insects, searching all day among the leafy foliage of the tall *Eucalypti* and other trees for small insects and their larvæ, which constitute its food. The usual nesting place of this species is in the hollow limb of a tree, but frequently it takes possession of the deserted nest of the Fairy Martin (*Lagenoplastes ariel*), or about farm houses and outbuildings constructs its dome-shaped nest of bark and grasses, and feathered between the ceiling and roof, or in any situation under cover. It also resorts to the bank of a creek, forming a nest at the extremity of a tunnel like *P. punctatus* and *P. melanocephalus*, and about Louth and Bourke is often found breeding in company with the White-breasted Swallow (*Cheramœca leucosternum*). Eggs pure white; length, 0·72 x 0·56 inch.

23. PARDALOTUS RUBRICATUS, *Gould*. "Fawn-eyebrowed Diamond-bird."

Pardalotus rubricatus, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II., pl. 36 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs Austr. Bds., p. 54 (1889).

A species rarely met with in New South Wales, inhabiting the north-western portions of the Colony. It breeds at the end of a tunnel it forms in the bank of a creek. Eggs pure white; length, 0·8 x 0·6 inch.

24. PARDALOTUS XANTHOPYGIUS, *McCoy*. "Golden-rumped Diamond-bird."

Pardalotus xanthopygius, Gould, Suppl. to the Birds of Austr., fol. ed., pl. 8 (1869); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 50 (1889).

This bird is sometimes obtained in the Blue Mountains, but it is a rare species in New South Wales. Breeding habits similar to *P. punctatus*, which it greatly resembles except in the colour of the rump. Eggs white; length, 0·63 x 0·51 inch.

25. GYMNORHINA TIBICEN, *Latham*. "Black-backed Crow-shrike," "Black-backed Magpie."

Gymnorhina tibicen, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II., pl. 46, (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 58, pl. VII, figs. 4, 5 and 6 (1889).

One of the most useful of all Australian birds to the pastoralist and agriculturist, devouring immense quantities of grasshoppers, caterpillars, and grubs every year. Both this, and the following species, whose habits are similar, are well known to all residents of Australia as "Magpies." It is distributed over the greater portion of New South Wales, which may be considered the stronghold of the species.

Complaints are sometimes made that the Magpie delights in pulling or digging up the freshly-germinating seeds of grain crops, but when an examination has been made it has been proved in nearly every instance that the bird was only in search of the grub that was attacking the seed at its base. When there is a paucity of insect life this bird may be driven to eat grain for a subsistence, but never from choice. Even admitting that a small quantity of grain is consumed or destroyed every year by this species, it fully compensates for this mischief, by ridding the land of countless numbers of injurious insect pests.

26. *GYMNORHINA LEUCONOTA*, *Gould*. "White-backed Crow-shrike," "White-backed Magpie."

Gymnorhina leuconota, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 47 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 59 (1889).

This species replaces *G. tibicen* in the southern districts of the Colony, and is particularly plentiful in the neighbourhood of Cooma, Tumut, and the Manaro Ranges. Like the preceding species, it constructs a large bowl-shaped nest of sticks and twigs, lined with hair, and lays three eggs, which are subject to great variation in their colour and markings.

27. *GRALLINA PICATA*, *Latham*. "Pied Grallina," "Magpie-lark," "Mud-lark," "Peewit."

Grallina australis, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 54 (1848).

Grallina picata, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., page 79, pl. VIII, fig. 12 (1889).

A well-known resident species, found all over Australia. Breeds during September and the three following months, building a cup-shaped nest of mud lined with grasses, which is usually placed on the bare horizontal branch of a tree, but not unfrequently selecting one where a few green leafy twigs are growing out of it, and which partially hide the structure. During the autumn months it assembles in large flocks, passing most of its time on the ground in search of insects. Eggs four or five in number for a sitting, white or reddish-white with purplish-red spots and blotches, usually forming a zone on the larger end; length, 1.18 x 0.8 inch. Dr. N. A. Cobb, Pathologist to the Department of Agriculture, has recently discovered that this bird is most useful in destroying large numbers of a species of land mollusc, an intermediate host of fluke. The figure represents a male.

28. *PTEROPODOCYS PHASIANELLA*, *Gould*. "Ground Graucalus."

Pteropodocys phasianella, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 59 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 76, pl. IX, fig. 2 (1889).

Widely distributed throughout the inland portions of the Colony, but not numerous anywhere.

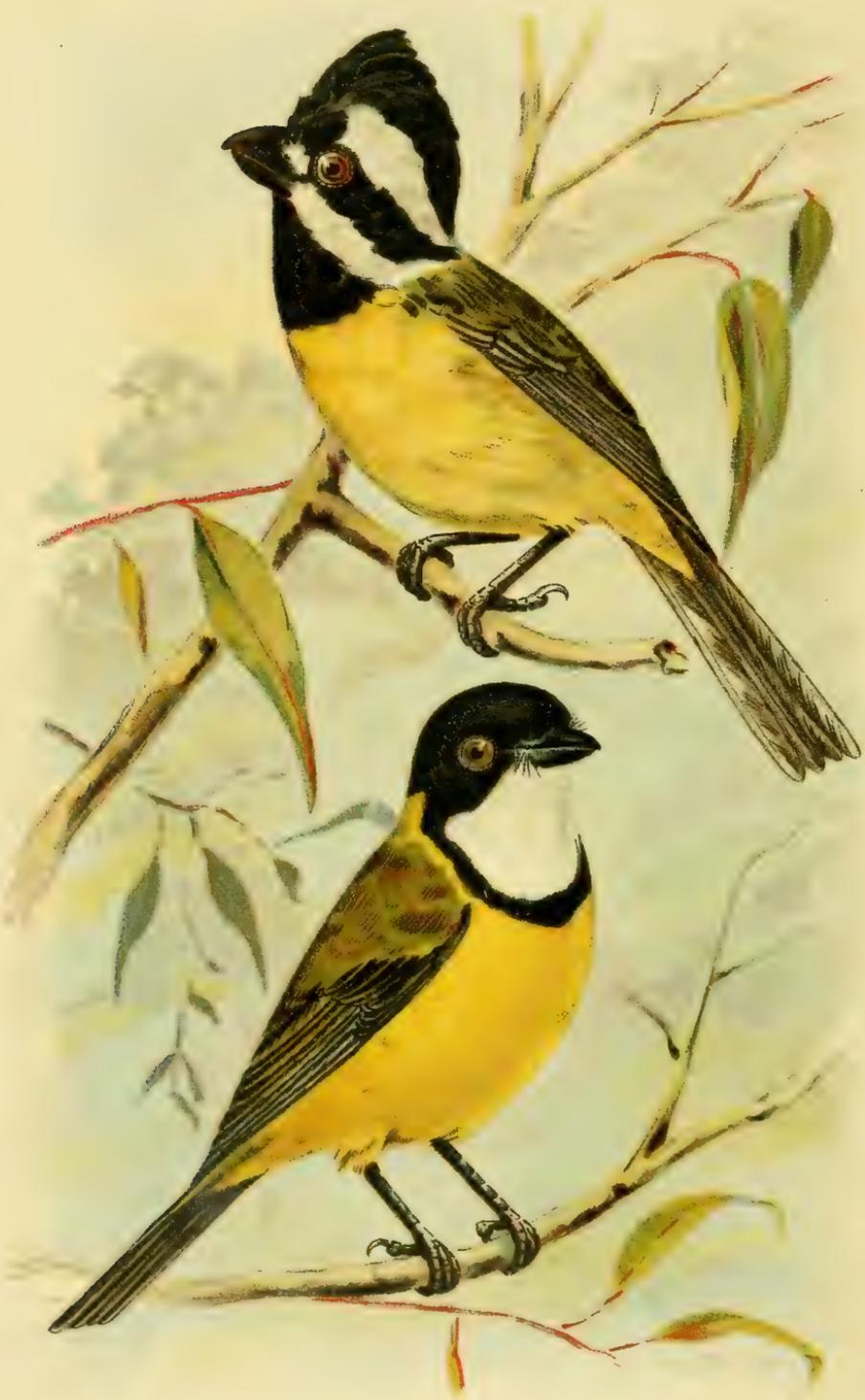
29. *EDOLIISOMA TENUIROSTRE*, *Jardine*. "Jardine's Campephaga."

Campephaga jardinii, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., pl. 60 (1848).

Edoliisoma tenuirostre, North, Records, Austr. Mus., Vol. II, p. 13 (1892).

Seldom met with in New South Wales, except in the scrubs and brushes of the coast.





FALCUNCULUS FRONTATUS Lath
Crested Shrike-Tit
PACHYCEPHALA GUTTURALIS Lath
Yellow-breasted Shrike-tit
PL V

30. LALAGE LEUCOMELÆNA, *Vig. and Horsf.* "Rufous-vented Lalage."

Campephaga leucomela, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 62 (1848).

Lalage leucomelæna, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 77 (1889).

A common species in the brushes of the Clarence, Richmond, and Tweed Rivers, its range in the Colony being confined to the northern coastal districts. Nest similar to that of the next species, *L. tricolor*, its lesser congener, but, strange to say, smaller, and barely sufficient to hold the young bird when hatched. Only one egg is laid for a sitting, of an apple-green ground colour, thickly freckled, dotted and spotted with reddish-yellowish-brown, in some specimens forming a zone; length, 1 x 0.72 inch.

31. LALAGE TRICOLOR, *Swainson.* "White-shouldered Lalage," "Little Magpie Lark."

Campephaga humeralis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol., Vol. II, pl. 63 (1848).

Lalage tricolor, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 78 (1889).

A migratory species, arriving in New South Wales about the middle of September, and departing again at the end of February. From the conspicuous black and white plumage of the male, it is locally known in some districts as the "Little Magpie Lark." It has a pleasing song, which can be heard some distance away. The nest of this species is a scanty structure formed of grasses loosely interwoven and held together with cobwebs, and is usually placed at the junction of a forked horizontal branch of a Eucalyptus or Syncarpia, the rim and outside of the nest having small pieces of bark attached so as to resemble the branch on which it is placed. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, of a light-green ground colour, blotched all over with reddish-brown markings; length, 0.82 x 0.65 inch.

32. PACHYCEPHALA GUTTURALIS, *Latham.* "Yellow-breasted Thick head."

Pachycephala gutturalis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 64 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 64 (1889).

A resident species frequenting the open forest country and lightly-timbered scrubs of eastern New South Wales. The nest is an open cup-shaped structure, composed of thin twigs, fibrous roots, or the wiry thread-like leaves of the *Casuarina*, and is usually placed in the upright fork of a tree, within 6 or 7 feet from the ground. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, of a yellowish or brownish buff, thickly marked with freckles of dark amber and blackish-brown, particularly towards the thicker end, where, intermingled with underlying spots of violet-grey, they become confluent and form a zone; length, 0.95 x 0.68 inch. From its habit of starting to sing immediately after a clap of thunder, the report of a gun, or any other loud and sudden noise, it is known to many residents of New South Wales as the "Thunder-bird." The specimen figured is a male.

33. PACHYCEPHALA RUFIVENTRIS, *Latham.* "Rufous-breasted Thickhead."

Pachycephala pectoralis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 67 (1848).

Pachycephala rufiventris, North, Nests and Eggs Austr. Bds., p. 67, pl. XII, fig. 11 (1889).

A resident species, but more frequently met with during the spring and summer months. It builds a scanty nest of rootlets or twigs, and lays three eggs of an olive ground colour, spotted and blotched with dark umber-brown

or sepia markings; length, 0·87 x 0·68 inch. The breeding season in New South Wales commences early in October, and continues until the end of January. Also known as the Thunder-bird.

34. *PACHYCEPHALA OLIVACEA*, *Vig. and Horsf.* "Olivaceous Thickhead."

Pachycephala olivacea, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 73 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 68, pl. VIII, fig. 11 (1889).

A comparatively rare species in New South Wales, frequenting the undergrowth of our mountain ranges, and more particularly those of the New England district. Eggs buffy-white, spotted and dotted on the thicker end with reddish and blackish-brown markings and underlying spots of dark lilac; length, 1·08 x 0·78 inch.

35. *PACHYCEPHALA GILBERTI*, *Gould.* "Gilbert's Thickhead."

Pachycephala gilberti, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 71 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 67, pl. VIII, fig. 10 (1889).

A species seldom met with in New South Wales; inhabiting the central and western districts of the Colony. Eggs, three in number for a sitting, of a yellowish-buff ground colour, spotted with blackish-brown and underlying spots of bluish-grey; length, 0·93 x 0·72 inch.

36. *COLLYRIOCINCLA HARMONICA*, *Latham.* "Harmonious Thrush," "Grey Thrush."

Colluricincla harmonica, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 74 (1848).

Colluricincla harmonica, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 80, pl. VIII, figs. 2, 3, and 4 (1889).

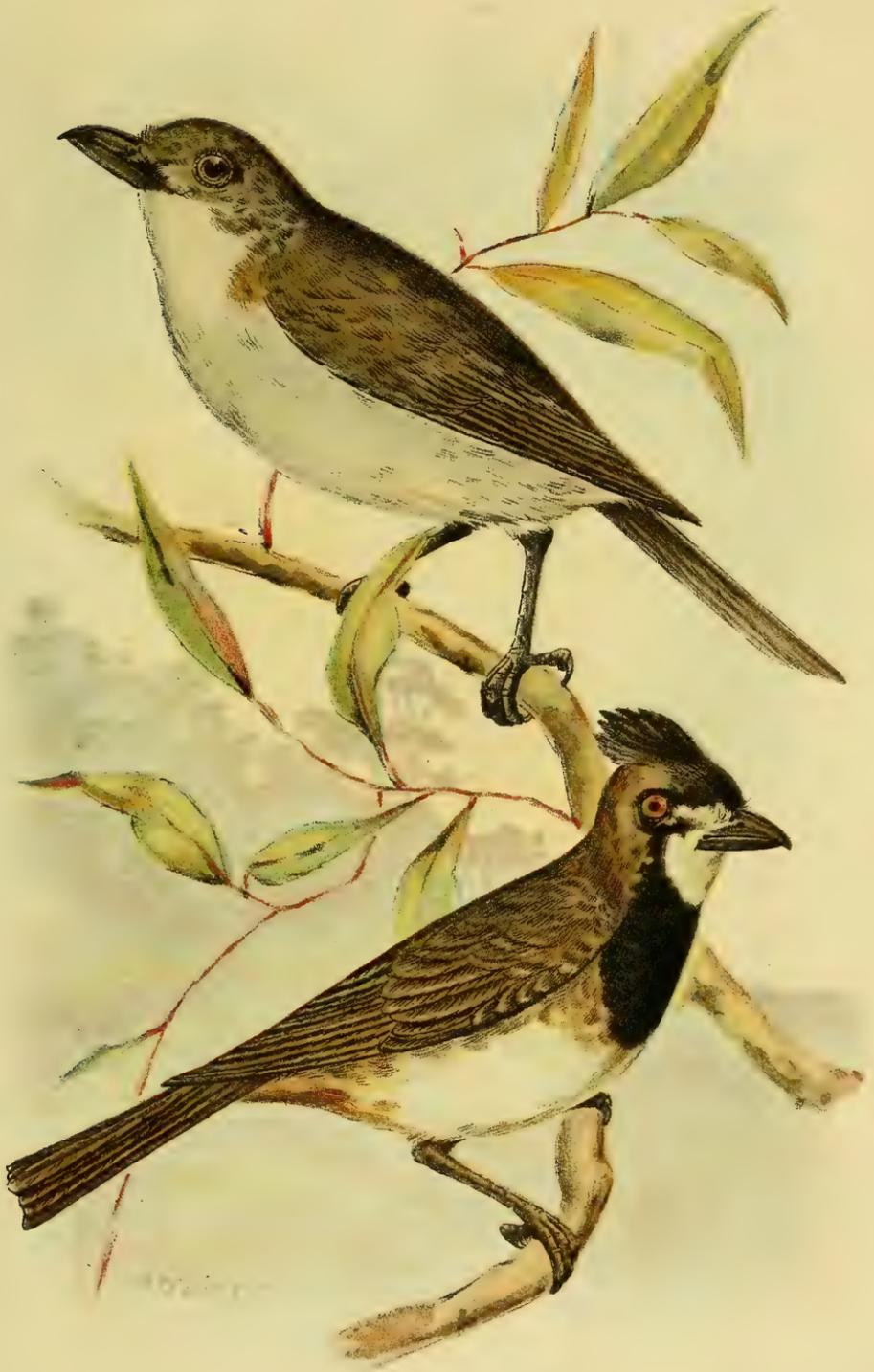
A familiar and well-known resident species, distributed over the greater portion of New South Wales. It frequents scrubs, partially-cleared lands and open forest country, our mountain ranges, and the timbered portions of the sides and banks of inland rivers and water-courses, but is never met with in the clumps or belts of trees growing out on the plains. The nest, which is formed of strips of bark and lined with fibrous roots, is usually placed in the hollow top of a stump, the fork of a tree, or on a narrow ledge of rock. The eggs are three in number for a sitting, rarely four, and are subject to considerable variation; the most usual variety found are pearly-white with spots and blotches of brownish-black, and underlying markings of deep slaty-grey; length, 1·2 x 0·9 inch. The breeding season commences in August, and continues until the end of December. While searching for insects, which constitute its food, the Harmonious Thrush progresses over the limbs and branches of the trees in a series of short hops.

37. *COLLYRIOCINCLA RUFIGASTER*, *Gould.* "Rufous-breasted Thrush."

Colluricincla rufogaster, Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1845, p. 80.

Colluricincla rufogaster, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 83 (1889).

In New South Wales this species is found only in the scrubs and brushes of the northern coastal districts. It breeds during October and the three following months, constructing a deep cup-shaped nest of leaves and the pliant-stems of climbing plants, neatly lined inside with wiry rootlets, and is usually built in the fork of a vine or in a tangled mass of creepers. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, and resemble those of the preceding species, *C. harmonica*, but are much smaller; length, 1·05 x 0·73 inch.



COLLYRIOCINCLA HARMONICA, Lath.
Harmonious Thrush.

OREOICA CRISTATA, Lewin.
Crested Bell Bird.



38. *FALCUNCULUS FRONTATUS*, Vieillot. "Crested Shrike-Tit."

Falcunculus frontatus, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 79 (1848);
North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 69, pl. VIII, fig. 9 (1889).

A resident species widely distributed over the greater portion of New South Wales. It usually frequents the tall *Eucalypti*, and while engaged in its search for insects among their leafy tops, utters a low plaintive note. The nest is a beautiful inverted cone-shaped structure outwardly composed of shreds of fibrous bark bound round, and held together with spider's webs, the inside being lined with very fine wiry grasses and thin strips of bark, and is always placed in the thin topmost leafy twigs of a tree, usually a lofty *Eucalyptus*, but sometimes in a gum sapling. The eggs are white, minutely dotted, and spotted with slaty-black markings; length, 0.92 x 0.64 inch. The figure represents a male.

39. *OREOICA CRISTATA*, Lewin. "Crested Oreoica," "Bell-bird."

Oreoica gutturalis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 81 (1848).

Oreoica cristata, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 70, pl. VIII, fig. 6 (1889).

A resident species common in the inland portions of the Colony. It possesses the powers of ventriloquism, and from some of its notes uttered, usually when perched upon the branch of some lofty tree, and which resemble the solemn tolling of a bell, it is known to the residents of the interior and western portions of New South Wales by the local name of "Bell-bird." This bird, however, must not be confounded with the Bell-bird (*Myzantha melanophrys*), found near the coast, whose ceaseless and somewhat monotonous note sounds like a sheep-bell. The nest which is built of strips of bark and leaves, and lined with fibrous roots and grasses is usually placed in the hollow top of a stump, or in the three pronged fork of a low tree. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, of a faint bluish-white minutely spotted, and blotched with irregular-shaped black markings; length, 1.05 x 0.83 inch. August and the three following months constitutes the normal breeding season of this species. The figure represents a male.

40. *SPHENOSTOMA CRISTATA*, Gould. "Crested Wedge-bill."

Sphenostoma cristatum, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. III, pl. 17 (1848).

Sphenostoma cristata, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 71, pl. VIII, fig. 5 (1889).

A species seldom met with except in the scrubby undergrowth of the central and western districts of New South Wales. It builds an open cup-shaped nest of thin twigs and grasses, usually placed in some low bush, and lays two eggs of a bluish-green ground colour, spotted and dotted with black or purplish-brown markings; length, 0.92 x 0.7 inch.

41. *PSOPHODES CREPITANS*, Vig. and Horsf. "Whip-bird."

Psophodes crepitans, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. III, pl. 15 (1848);
North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 72, pl. VIII, fig. 7 (1889).

A shy and retiring species, widely distributed over the eastern portion of New South Wales. It frequents the scrubs and brushes near the coast, as well as the fern-clad gullies of our mountain ranges, although the loud note of the male, resembling the cracking of a stockman's whip, is more often heard than the bird is seen. This species forms an open cup-shaped nest, rather irregularly formed on the exterior with long thin twigs and fibrous

roots, the inside being neatly lined with finer rootlets. It is usually placed in a low bush in the thick undergrowth, or in a mass of climbing plants, or in the dead leafy top of a fallen gum sapling. Near Sydney the shrub usually selected by this bird for a nesting site is the Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*). The eggs are two, rarely three, in number for a sitting, of a beautiful bluish or greenish-white ground colour sparingly spotted and blotched with irregular-shaped black markings; length, 1.07 x 0.82 inch. Although the Whip-bird is frequently heard in the vicinity of orchards and gardens, it seldom ventures into them in search of insects which constitutes its sole food.

42. SPHENURA BRACHYPTERA, *Latham*. "Bristle-bird."

Dasyornis australis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed. Vol. III, pl. 32 (1848).
Sphenura brachyptera, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 125, pl. VIII, fig. 16 (1889).

An inhabitant chiefly of the coastal scrubs of the Colony, over which it is sparingly dispersed. It is usually a shy and cautious species, but sometimes it may be observed during spring, in the neighbourhood of Randwick, perched on the top of a low bush, pouring forth its rich and varied notes, resembling those of the acclimatised Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), and which it probably mimics, as they are plentiful in that locality. The nest of this species is usually built at the bottom of a stunted bush; it is oval in form, with an entrance in the side, and is constructed of dried wiry grasses. The eggs are three in number for a sitting, of a dull white ground colour thickly freckled and dotted with reddish-brown and blackish-brown markings.

43. RHIPIDURA ALBISCAPA, *Gould*. "White-shafted Fantail," "Land Wag-tail," "Devil-bird."

Rhipidura albiscapa, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 83 (1848);
North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 84 (1889).

A well-known and useful little bird of active and lively habits freely distributed over the greater portion of New South Wales. It evinces a decided preference for open forest country with a light undergrowth, and is also frequently met with in gardens or orchards in newly-settled districts. The White-shafted Fantail, which lives exclusively on insects, principally flies and gnats, may be often seen darting suddenly forth at passing insects, or flitting from tree to tree, seldom remaining long in one position, and frequently expanding its fan-shaped tail. The nest of this species is an exceedingly neat and peculiar structure; it is shaped like a wine-glass with the base or stand broken off, and is composed of very fine strips of bark securely held and bound together on the outside with spider's web, and neatly lined inside with fibrous roots or wiry grasses. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, of a creamy-white ground colour, spotted and blotched with brown markings and a few obsolete spots of bluish-grey; length, 0.64 x 0.5 inch. The nest is usually placed on the thin dead branch of a gum sapling or *Melaleuca*.

44. RHIPIDURA RUFIFRONS, *Latham*. "Rufous-rumped Fantail."

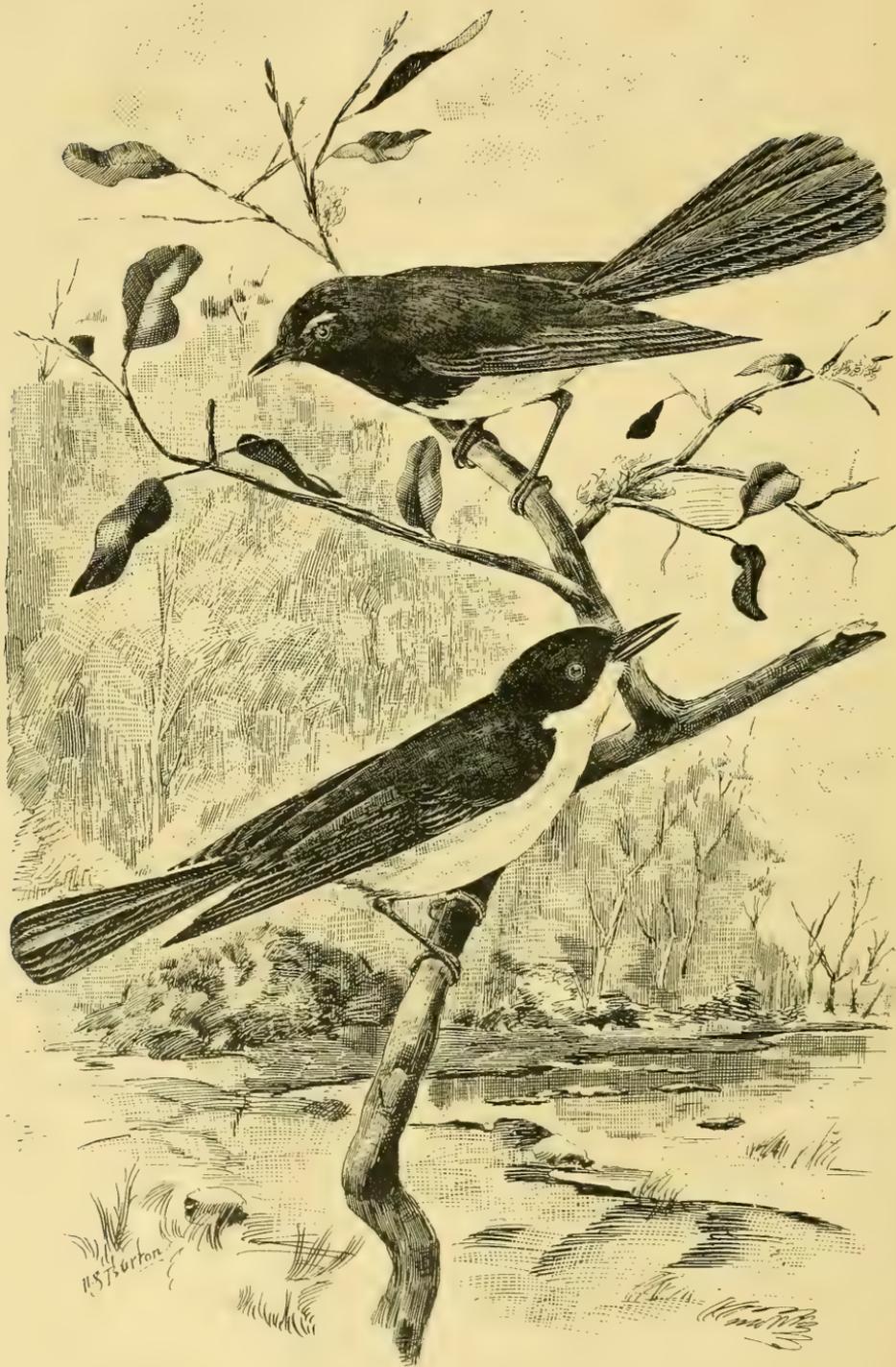
Rhipidura rufifrons, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 84 (1848);
North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 87 (1889).

This species inhabits the coastal scrubs of the Colony; it visits the contiguous open forest lands during winter, and retires again to the secluded gullies



SPHENURA BIRACHYPTERA, Lath.
Bristle-Bird.

PSIOPHONIS CREPITANS, Vig & Horst.
Whip-Bird.



Sauloprocta motacilloides, Vig. & Horsf.
"Black and White Fantail."

(1617-96)

Seisura inquieta, Lath.
"Restless Flycatcher."

Plate VIII.

and dense brushes of the coast to breed early in October. It resembles the preceding species in its habits, but is far less frequently met with. Eggs creamy-white, with a zone of dull blackish-brown and violet-grey markings on the thicker end; length, 0.72 x 0.53 inch.

45. SAULOPROCTA MOTACILLOIDES, *Vig. and Horsf.* "Black and White Fantail," "Water Wagtail."

Rhipidura motacilloides, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 86 (1848).
Sauloprocta motacilloides, North, Nests and Eggs Austr. Bds., p. 88 (1889).

A resident and well-known species found over most parts of New South Wales. It frequents the vicinity of farms, outbuildings, gardens, and orchards, and may be often seen perched on the backs of cows, or securing the insects disturbed by them while feeding. From this bird's habit of constantly swaying its lengthened tail feathers from side to side it is locally known in many districts as the "Willy Wagtail." It breeds in September and the three following months, constructing a remarkably neat cup-shaped nest of thin strips of bark and dried grasses beautifully held together and woven round with cobwebs, and lined inside with thin wiry grasses or fibrous roots. The eggs are three or four in number for a sitting, of a pale yellowish or creamy-white ground colour, spotted and dotted with yellowish-brown and ashy-grey, principally at the thicker end, where the markings frequently assume the form of a zone; length, 0.8 x 0.6 inch. The nest of this species is usually built on the branch of a tree overhanging water, but may be sometimes found a considerable distance from any stream. Its call note resembles the sound of the words, "Sweet Pretty Creature."

46. SEISURA INQUIETA, *Latham.* "Restless Flycatcher." "Razor-grinder."
Seisura inquieta, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 87 (1848);
North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 89.

A resident species; although widely distributed, it is not so frequently met with as the Black and White Fantail, which bird it somewhat resembles. Its curious note, however, which is uttered generally when hovering a few feet above the ground, and the pure white throat as well as the remainder of the under surface of the body, will at once serve to distinguish it from the preceding species. The nest of this bird is usually built at the end of a dead bough, and is outwardly composed of strips of bark, grasses, and cobwebs; the inside being neatly lined with rootlets, grasses, and hair. The eggs are three in number for a sitting, of a dull white ground colour blotched and spotted with dull chestnut-brown, principally towards the larger end, where, intermingled with underlying markings of pale slaty-grey, they frequently form a well-defined zone; length, 0.75 x 0.6 inch. The breeding season commences in September, and continues until the end of December.

47. MYIAGRA RUBECULA, *Latham.* "Lead-coloured Flycatcher." "Frog-bird."

Myiagra plumbea, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol., Vol. II, pl. 89 (1848).
Myiagra rubecula, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds., p. 92 (1889).

A migratory and by no means common species arriving in New South Wales during September, and leaving again about the end of March. It is usually met with in pairs in the secluded gullies of the coastal districts of the Colony. The nest is a very beautiful structure, composed of small

pieces of bark and wiry rootlets held together with cobwebs, and ornamented on the outside with pale green lichens; usually it is placed on the top of an horizontal bough, and frequently at a great height from the ground. The eggs are three in number for a sitting, dull bluish-white in ground colour, with a zone of dark, slaty-blue spots around the centre or towards the larger end of the egg; length, 0.74 x 0.55 inch. Although far less common than the preceding species it is an active and assiduous destroyer of insects.

48. *MYIAGRA NITIDA*, Gould. "Shining Flycatcher."

Myiagra nitida, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 91 (1848); North, Nests and Eggs, Austr. Bds., p. 94 (1889).

This comparatively rare species in New South Wales resembles the preceding one, but is larger, and the male has the feathers of the head, throat, and upper surface glossy steel-black, instead of leaden-grey, as in *M. rubecula*. Its habits and mode of nidification are similar to those of the Leaden-coloured Flycatcher.

49. *MICRÆCA FASCINANS*, Latham. Brown Flycatcher. "Jacky Winter."

Micræca macroptera, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 93 (1848).
Micræca fascinans, North, Nests and Eggs, Austr. Bds., p. 95 (1889).

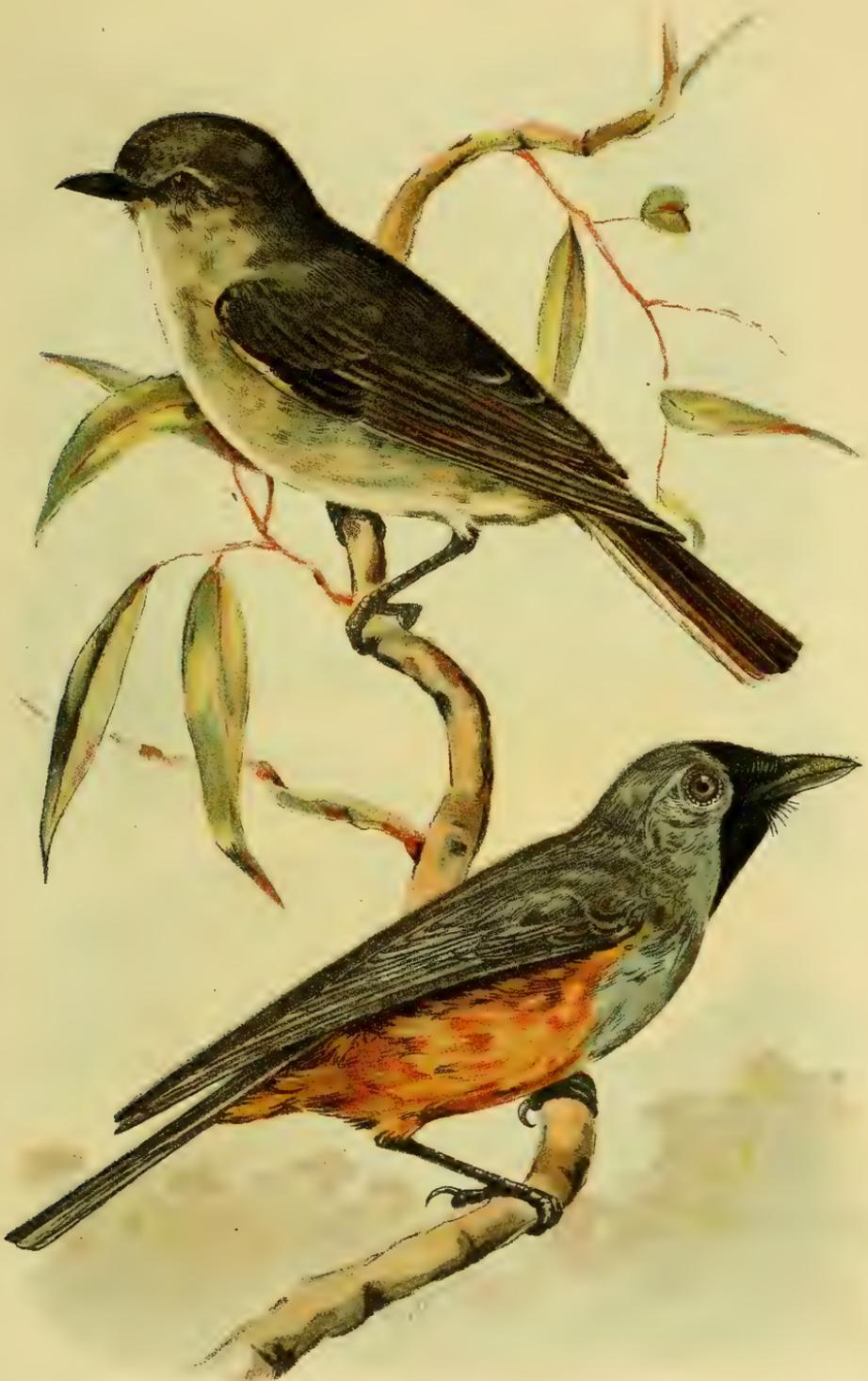
A resident and well-known species as freely distributed inland as it is near the coast, where it may be found frequenting alike the tall *Eucalypti* and the low undergrowth, and is equally common in the parks and gardens of Sydney. This sombre little bird with its conspicuous white lateral tail feathers, which shows to advantage when flying, is an indefatigable destroyer of insects, and being of a fearless and sociable disposition, is a general favourite with orchardists and agriculturists. It usually commences to breed in September, and continues the three following months, but nests have been found in August and as late as the end of January. The nest is very small and shallow, and is composed of grasses built in the fork of a horizontal bough, a dead branch being usually the site selected, the rim of the nest, which is level with the top of the forked branch, being ornamented with pieces of bark and lichen. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, of a bluish-green ground colour, spotted and blotched with purplish-brown and underlying blotches of deep bluish-grey; length, 0.72 x 0.55 inch.

50. *MONARCHA MELANOPSIS*, Vieillot. "Black-faced Flycatcher."

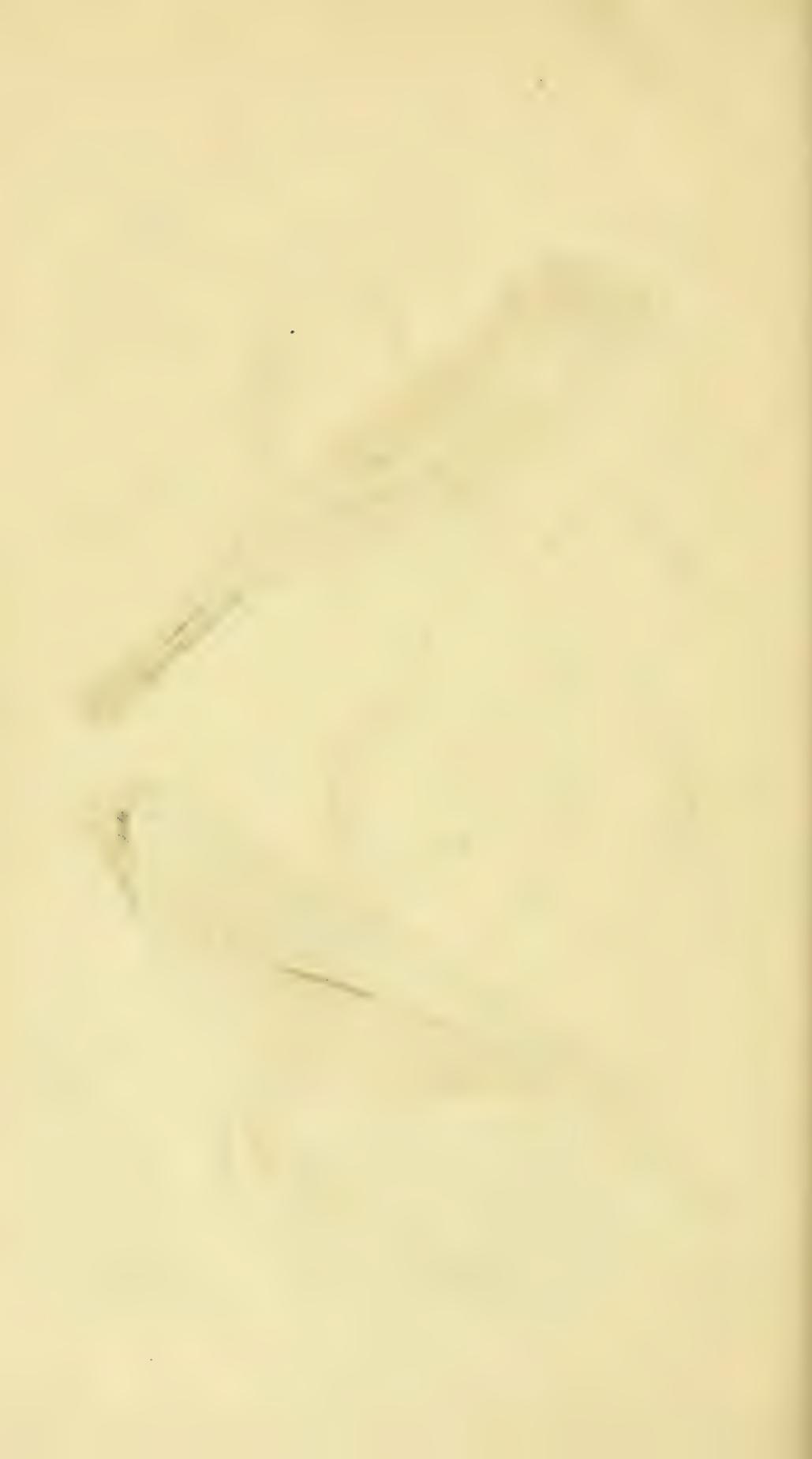
Monarcha carinata, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. Vol. II, pl. 95 (1848).

Monarcha melanopsis, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Birds, p. 96 (1889).

A migratory species arriving in New South Wales during the month of September, and departing again at the end of March. It frequents the dense coastal brushes and the secluded gullies of our mountain ranges. The nest of this species is generally built in a low tree, and is a most beautiful structure, outwardly composed of fine green mosses, and neatly lined inside with fine black hair-like rootlets on the wiry leaves of the *Casuarina*. The eggs are two in number for a sitting, varying in ground colour from pure white to pinkish-white, with numerous spots and dots of bright red scattered over the surface of the shell; length, 0.9 x 0.7 inch. When these birds first arrive they may be frequently observed in pairs in the open forest lands, assiduously searching for insects among the branches of the *Eucalypti*.



MICRÆCA FASCINANS, Lath.
Brown Flycatcher.
MONARCHA MELANOPSIS, Vieill.
Black-faced Flycatcher.
PL. IX



51. *PIEZORHYNCHUS GOULDI*, *Gray*. Gould's "Flycatcher," "Black-fronted Flycatcher."

Monarcha trivirgata, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 96 (1848).

Piezorhynchus gouldii, North, Nests and Eggs, Austr. Birds, p. 90 (1889).

A rarer species allied to the above, and frequenting the same situations. The nest of this Flycatcher is usually built between the stems of the lawyer vine, *Calamus australis*, and is outwardly composed of shreds of bark fibre, grasses, and dried skeletons of leaves, ornamented and held together with spiders' webs and egg bags, the inside being neatly lined with fine, black hair-like roots. The eggs are two in number for a sitting; pure white, with dots and spots of bright reddish-brown, thickly distributed over the surface of the shell; length, 0.8 x 0.58 inch. This bird is more frequently met with in the tropical brushes of north eastern Queensland.

52. *GERYGONE ALBIGULARIS*, *Gould*. "White-throated Gerygone," "Native Canary."

Gerygone albigularis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 97 (1848).

Gerygone albigularis, North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Birds, p. 97 (1889).

This migratory and well-known species arrives in New South Wales during the month of September, and takes its departure again about the end of March or April. From its yellow breast and sweet and pleasing notes, it is known in many parts of the Colony as the "Native Canary." When not engaged in the duties of incubation, this little bird may be frequently seen in the neighbourhood of Sydney, diligently searching in the leafy recesses of the Turpentine tree (*Syncarpia laurifolia*), or gum saplings, for minute insects, which constitute its sole food. The nest of this species, which is suspended from the leafy twig of a bushy tree, is oblong-oval in shape, with a narrow entrance in the side, which is almost concealed by a small protecting hood; and the bottom of the nest terminates in a small beard or tail several inches in length. It is outwardly constructed of strips of bark, grasses, and cobwebs matted up and interwoven together; the inside being warmly lined with hair, opossum fur, or the silky-white down of the Cotton Plant (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*). The eggs are three in number for a sitting, elongate in form, and of a pure white, thickly freckled, and spotted with dull red markings; length, 0.75 x 0.5 inch. The White-throated Gerygone is frequently the foster-parent of the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo, *Lamprococcyx basalix*, and the Barred-breasted Bronze Cuckoo, *L. plagosus*.

53. *GERYGONE FUSCA*, *Gould*. "Brown Gerygone."

Gerygone fusca, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II, pl. 98 (1848);
North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Birds, p. 99 (1889).

This species is not so frequently met with as the preceding one, and is far less attractive, both in plumage and song. It inhabits the dense brushes near the coast, out of which it is seldom observed. During September and the three following months it may be found breeding in the neighbourhood of Gosford and Ourimbah, and in similar localities on all the northern rivers. The nest, which is nearly spherical in shape, with a small entrance in the side, is attached at the top to the end of a thin twig or branch, and frequently to the prickly stem of the lawyer vine, *Calamus australis*. It is constructed of very fine black wiry rootlets and thin shreds of bark, matted up together, and having an exterior covering of green mosses ornamented here and there with mouse-eared lichen, the inside being lined with

fine grasses, and the white down of the Cotton Plant. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, and resemble those of the preceding species, but are smaller; length, 0.63 x 0.45 inch.

54. *SMICRORNIS BREVIROSTRIS*, *Gould*. "Short-billed Smicrornis," "Scrub Tit."

Smicrornis brevirostris, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. II., pl. 103; North, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Birds, p. 100. (1889).

A resident species more freely distributed over the inland portions of the Colony than near the coast. It is a very useful bird, although the most diminutive member of our New South Wales avi-fauna, and may be constantly seen prying into the leafy recesses of *Acacias* and the tall *Eucalypti*, in search of insects which constitute its food. The nest of this species is usually built in the leafy twigs near the top of a gum sapling or in a *Melaleuca*; it is of a domed or swollen pear-shaped form, with a narrow entrance near the top, and is outwardly constructed of mosses, grasses, and spiders' cocoons matted up together, and scantily lined inside with feathers. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, of a dull buffy-white, minutely freckled, and passing into a buffy-brown on the larger end of the egg; length, 0.62 x 0.43 inch.

55. *ERYTHRODRYAS ROSEA*, *Gould*. "Rose-breasted Robin."

Erythrodryas rosea, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. III, pl. 2. (1848); North, Vict., Nat. vol. XII, Feb. (1896.)

During the winter months this species may be seen in pairs in open forest lands, contiguous to the rich brushes and coastal scrubs; retiring again to the latter localities for the purposes of breeding early in the spring, and remaining there throughout the hot summer months. The nest of this species has been found in the secluded valleys of the Illawarra district, and is one of the most beautiful belonging to any of our Australian birds. It is placed on the top of a horizontal branch of a low tree, and is a small deep cup-shaped structure composed of very fine mosses, the exterior and rim being ornamented and thickly covered with mouse-eared lichen, and the inside lined with the downy covering of the newly-budded fronds of the tree-fern. All the Robins are indefatigable destroyers of insects.

56. *PETROECA LEGGII*, *Sharpe*. "Scarlet-breasted Robin."

Petroica multicolor, *Gould*, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. III, pl. 3. (1848).

Petroeca leggii, *North*, Nests and Eggs of Austr. Birds, p. 102. (1889).

A well-known and familiar species frequenting open forest lands during winter, but returning in the spring to breed in the mountain ranges. The nest of this species is usually built in the hollow trunk of a large tree, or on a piece of projecting bark within 6 or 7 feet from the ground, on the top of a horizontal branch of a *Melaleuca*, or placed against its stem, and supported by a small twig. It is cup-shaped and composed of strips of bark and grasses, held together with cobwebs, and ornamented on the outside and rim of the nest, which is very thick, with pieces of lichen, rendering it difficult of detection, and closely resembling the branch on which it is placed; the inside is neatly and warmly lined with hair or opossum fur. Eggs, three in number for a sitting, of a greenish-white ground colour, freckled and spotted all over the surface of the shell, with purplish-brown, wood-brown, and bluish-grey markings; length, 0.72 x 0.6 inch. September and the three following months constitutes the usual breeding season of this species.

57. *PETROECA PHŒNICEA*, *Gould*. "Flame-breasted Robin."

Petroica phœnica, *Gould*, *Birds of Austr.*, fol. ed., Vol. III, pl. 6 (1848);
North, *Nests and Eggs of Austr. Birds*, p. 104 (1889).

Frequents the same situations, and is similar in habits to the preceding species. Nests in old tree stumps and on the sides of steep banks.

58. *PETROECA GOODENOVII*, *Vigors and Horsfield*. "Red-capped Robin.

Petroica goodenovii, *Gould*, *Birds of Austr.*, fol. ed., vol. III, pl. 5 (1848);
North, *Nests and Eggs of Austr. Birds*, p. 103 (1889).

This species is only found in the inland districts of the Colony. It is freely dispersed throughout the western portions of New South Wales wherever there is any light timber or scrub. The nest of this Robin is a beautiful cup-shaped structure, composed externally of bark fibre, held together with fur or fragments of wool, and lined inside with hair or opossum fur. The edge of the nest is thick and rounded, and the whole exterior is ornamented with pieces of mouse-eared lichen, so as to resemble the branch on which it is placed. The eggs are two or three in number for a sitting, of a greyish-green ground colour, thickly freckled with purplish-brown markings, which become confluent towards the larger end, and form a well-defined zone; length, 0.63 x 0.5 inch. The Red-capped Robin is not unfrequently the foster parent of the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo, another insectivorous species.

59. *MELANODRYAS BICOLOR*, *Vig. and Horsf.* "Hooded Robin,"
"Black and White Robin."

Petroica bicolor, *Gould*, *Birds of Austr.*, fol. ed., Vol. III, pl. 7 (1848).
Melanodryas bicolor, North, *Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds.*, p. 105 (1889).

With the exception of the districts immediately contiguous to the coast, this species is found all over New South Wales. It may be met with on the wooded flats and open forest country between Blacktown and Penrith, and on the Blue Mountains, but is far more freely distributed in the low pine scrubs on the western side of the range. The nest of this species is a neat, open, shallow structure, composed of strips of soft bark, held together with cobwebs, and lined inside with fine wiry grasses. It is usually placed in the fork of a low tree, within a few feet of the ground. Eggs, two or three in number for a sitting, of an olive or apple-green colour, but frequently washed or spotted with reddish-brown on the larger end; length, 0.83 x 0.65 inch. Beetles and their larvæ constitute the principal portion of this bird's food. The figure represents a male.

60. *MELANODRYAS PICATA*, *Gould*. "Pied Robin."

Melanodryas picata, *Gould*, *Handbk. Bds., Austr.*, Vol. I, sp. 169, p. 285
(1865); North, *Nests and Eggs of Austr. Bds.*, p. 105 (1889).

A smaller race of the above species, inhabiting north-western Australia, and only on one occasion recorded from New South Wales, when it was found breeding near Bourke.

61. *DRYMODES BRUNNEOPYGIA*, *Gould*. "Brown Scrub Robin."

Drymodes brunneopygia, *Gould*, *Bds of Austr.*, fol. ed., Vol. III, pl. 10
(1848).

A very rare species in New South Wales, and confined to the thick mallee scrubs in the south-western portions of the Colony. It breeds on the

ground in these localities, constructing a nest among the dead leaves at the foot of a small tree. The food of this species consists of insects and their larvæ.

62. *EOPSALTRIA AUSTRALIS*, *Latham*. "Yellow-breasted Robin."
Eopsaltria australis, Gould, Birds of Austr., fol. ed., Vol. III, pl. 11 (1848);
 North, Nests and Eggs, Austr. Bds., p. 108 (1889).

This resident and well-known species is freely distributed over the greater portion of eastern New South Wales. It is very common in the scrubs near the coast, and is equally plentiful in the damp and humid gullies of our heavily-timbered mountain ranges inland. Probably there is no more familiar or useful bird to the orchardist and viticulturist, for being of a tame and fearless disposition, it readily enters into orchards and vineyards in search of insects and their larvæ, which constitute its food. Near Sydney this species is one of the first to breed, commencing early in July and continuing until the end of December, during which time two or more broods are reared. The nest, which is usually placed in the fork of a low tree, is a round cup-shaped structure, composed of strips of bark and fibrous roots, bound round and held together with cobwebs, the outside and rim being beautifully ornamented with lichen and pieces of bark attached by means of cobweb, and which hang perpendicularly around the nest. It is lined inside with wiry grasses, and generally has a few dried Eucalyptus leaves at the bottom. Eggs, two or three in number for a sitting, of a bright apple or bluish-green ground colour, freckled and spotted all over with different shades of reddish and chestnut-brown. In some instances these markings predominate towards the thicker end, and becoming confluent, form a well-defined zone; length, 0.83 x 0.62 inch.

63. *PÆCILDORYAS CAPITO*, *Gould*. "Large-headed Robin," "White-lored Robin."

Eopsaltria capito, Gould, Birds of Austr. Suppl., pl. 17 (1869); North,
 Nests and Eggs, Austr. Bds., p. 109 (1889).

This species frequents the rich brushes that clothe the sides of the northern coastal rivers, its range extending as far south as the neighbourhood of the Belling River. Although by no means an uncommon bird in this portion of the Colony, it is never met with elsewhere in New South Wales. The nest, which is usually built in a low tree, is a deep cup-shaped structure, composed of the dead leaves of the "lawyer-vine" (*Calamus australis*), held together with a few wiry grass-stems, the exterior being covered with mosses and a few pieces of lichen. Eggs, two in number for a sitting, of a dull greenish-white ground colour, indistinctly marked with yellowish and reddish brown, particularly towards the larger end; length, 0.8 x 0.6 inch.



EOPSALTRIA AUSTRALIS, Latr
Yellow-breasted Robin
MELANODRYAS BICOLOR, Vig & Horsf.
Black & White Robin.



