# NOTE ON THE BIRDS OF TASMANIA.

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COMPARED with tropical countries, or other regions of similar area, the Island of Tasmania cannot be said to be rich in bird life. There are two apparent causes for our limited First, the comparative paucity of fruit-bearing flora and insect-life; secondly, our island being the terminal point of the Australian "region," and separated from it by a strait, does not come in for its share of distribution of species, nor its proportion of northern migrants, which do not wander further than the southern parts of the conti-If, therefore, we confine ourselves to land-birds proper, and eliminate the numerous species of Petrel recorded as inhabiting our seas, the Penguins, the Gulls, and Terns (Gaviæ), the geese and ducks (Anseres), the Plovers and snipe-like birds (Limicolæ), and, finally, the Herons (Ardeidæ), there remains but a small list, even if we include the Rails, Coots, Cormorants, and Grebes. To the casual observer, however, who may wander through the open, settled country in the South, Midlands, Western, and Coast districts (not including the West), our feathered friends would seem to be fairly numerous; for it is in territory of this sort that the majority of our species are to be found. the habits, and provides food, for the parakeets, the various honey-eaters, small fly-catching birds (among which the showy chat-robins are conspicuous), tree-tits, Acanthiza, the diamond birds (Dicæidæ), and various other small Passerine birds, frequenting open country in preference to forest. On the other hand, in the dense and lofty forests, birds are few and far between, except in small tracts of land bordering creeks and rivers in the gullies, which are clothed with luxuriant scrub, and where insect life is more abundant. Again, if we penetrate the dense mountain forests of myrtle (Fagus cunninghami), in the West of the island, we find the almost impenetrable scrub and tangled undergrowth

absolutely unfavourable to bird life, and miles of this true and most formidable "jungle" may be struggled through without a single species being met with. Very little, indeed, is known as yet concerning the avifauna of the densely-clothed mountains of the western half of the country, where the dark and humid forests which fill the gullies and cover the sides of the ranges are suited to the habits of such birds only as the scrub-wren (Sericornis humilis), migratory fly-catchers (Myiagra), one or two of the thick-heads (Pachycephala), also the forest-loving honeyeater (Melithreptus), and, finally, the black crowshrikes, or magpies, whose far-reaching notes always betray their pre-In addition to these denizens of the trackless Western forests, we find the bold and lofty mountain-tops, which stand out of the wilderness in lonely grandeur, furnishing a home for certain raptorial species, such as the White and the Australian goshawks, the Black-cheeked Falcon, and the Hobby (Falco Lunlatus), while around the borders of the solitary tarns and lakes, which sparkle on their plateau summits, the ubiquitous Pipit (Anthus australis) is usually found, with, near at hand, one or two wandering honeyeaters, if the Alpine flora happens to be in flower.

In the Midlands, already referred to in connection with the Passerine birds above-mentioned, we have the stronghold of the few species of plover found in Tasmania. accompanied in summer by the migratory Golden Plover, which visits us from Northern Asia; and, round the large lagoons and -salt-pans characteristic of the district, the Double-banded Dottrel, and some rare species of waders are occasionally met with. Higher up on the open stock-runs, with alternating plains and scattered timber-tracts, the marsh Harrier (Circus assimilis), the Brown Hawk (both also common in the lowlands), and many of the commoner low-country species are usually seen; and here, too, that grand but predatory bird, the Wedge-tailed Eagle, the bête-noir of the pastoralist, is sure to be seen, either perched on some lofty tree or soaring at immense heights above the land-

scape.

In 1845, a carefully-compiled list of Tasmanian birds was submitted by the Rev. J. T. Ewing, at a meeting of the Royal Society, and published in its Proceedings for that year. Mr. Ewing was a keen observer of birds and their habits, and was a contemporary of Gould's while this great naturalist was in Australia. His list was exclusively compiled from Gould's work, supplemented by a few species observed by himself. A Tit found by Gould in Tasmania was named after Ewing (Acanthiza ewingi), but it has since been

considered identical with the well-known "Brown-tail" (A. diemenensis). It is not, however, certain that this is correct, as further research may lead to the rediscovery of Ewing's Tit. Subsequent to the publication of Ewing's list others have been printed, and used for reference, but up till late years scarcely any additions were made to the 169 birds enumerated in the first-named.

In 1886, a "Systematic List" was drawn up by myseif, the various orders, families, and sub-families into which our birds are divided being classified on the same system as that adopted in my "Birds of Ceylon." This list has now been revised, and included in this "Note." The now universally-received nomenclature of the "British Museum Catalogue" has been used, and the vernacular names adopted in the Australasian Association List of 1898 given to our birds. It is to be hoped that, in future, naturalists and collectors will adhere to the names in question, which are the result of much thought and care on the part of the

compilers.

If we compare the number of the members of the various families and orders given in the list with those inhabiting the continent, we see at a glance how far the Australian avifauna is represented in our Island:—Birds of prey are fairly numerous, the proportion of species in Tasmania being 12 to 27 in Australia, not inclusive, however, of the owls, which are only 3 to 14; fly-catchers (Muscicapida) number 8 species out of 67, which is a poor representation, one, the Fantail, being peculiar to the Island. Honey-eaters (Meliphagida) are also indifferently represented, our quota being 10 out of 82. In the parrot "order," Tasmania has 12 species out of 59. Passing to shore birds (plovers, dotterels, curlews, &c.), we find 23 in Tasmania out of a total of 46 recorded for Australia, which is a better representation than that of any order but petrels, of which we have 27 species out of 38 as yet noted from Australasian seas, this being accounted for by the fact that these birds are wanderers over all the Southern Ocean.

In some instances, for simplification, genera adopted in the British Museum Catalogue have not been made use of in the following List:—

# SYSTEMATIC LIST OF TASMANIAN BIRDS.

# Order ACCIPITRES.

Suborder Falcones.

Family FALCONIDÆ—(11 species).

Subfam. ACCIPITRINÆ. Circus Gouldi, Bonap. Circus assimilis, Jard & Selby. Astur Novæ Hollandiæ, Gmelin. Astur approximans, Vigors & Accipiter cirrhocephalus, Vieillot. Sparrow-hawk.

(Swamp-hawk). Jardines Harrier. White Goshawk. Australian Goshawk.

Harrier

Subfam. AQUILINÆ. Uroætus audax, Latham. Haliætus leucogaster, Gmelin. Wedge-tailed Eagle. Grey-backed Eagle

Subfam. FALCONINÆ. Falco melanogenys. Gould.

Black-cheeked Fal-Australian Hobby. Brown Hawk.

Falco lunulatus, Latham. Hieracidea Orientalis. Schlegel. Cerchneis cenchroides, Vig. & Australian Kestrel. Horst.

Suborder Pandiones.

Pandion leucocephalus, Gould. Australian Osprey.

Suborder Striges.

Family BUBONIDÆ -(2 species).

Subtam. BUBONINÆ. Ninox boobook, Latham. Ninox maculata, Vig. & Horsf.

Brown Hawk-owl. Spotted Hawk-owl.

Family STRIGIDÆ—(1 species.)

Strix castanops, Gould.

Tasmanian Barnowl.

### Order PICARIÆ.

Family CUCULIDÆ—(6 species).

Subfam. CUCULINÆ.

Cuculus pallidus, Latham. Cuculus flabelliformis, Latham. Chalcococcyx plagosus, Lath. ⟨ Chalcococcyx basalis, Horsfield.

Pallid Cuckoo. Fantailed Cuckoo. Bronze Cuckoo. Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo. Cuckoo. Broad-billed Bronze

Chalcococcyx lucidus, Gmelin.

Subfani. 5 \* Scythrops Novæ Hollandiæ, Channel-bill PHÆNICOPHAINÆ. Lath. Cuckoo.

Family ALCEDINIDÆ—(2 species).

Subfam. HALCYONINE.

Haleyon sanctus, Vig. & Horst. Sacred Kingfisher.

Subfam. ALCEDININÆ.

Alcyone azurea, Latham.

Blue Kingfisher.

Family CYPSELIDÆ—(1 species).

Chætura caudacuta, Lath. Spine-tailed Swift.

Family CAPRIMULGIDÆ—(2 species).

Subfam. STEATORNINÆ. Podargus Strigoides, Latham.

Frogmouth (Morepork).

Subfam. (Ægotheles Novæ Hollandiæ, Little Night Jar. CAPRIMULGINÆ. Lath.

# Order PASSERES

# Section A. Thrush-like Passeres.

(10 primaries, 1st small.)

Family CORVIDÆ—(4 species).

Subfam. CORVINA. Corvus coronoides, Vio. & Horst. Australian Raven. Corone Australis, Gould. White-eyed Crow. Strepera fuliginosa, Gould. Strepera arguta, Gould. Black Magpie. Hill Magpie.

Family DICRURIDÆ.—(1 species).

Chibia bracteata, Gould.

Drongo. Family CAMPOPHAGIDÆ—(2 species).

Graucalus parvirostris, Gould. Summer Bird. White-shouldered \*Lalage tricolor, Swainson. Caterpiller-eater.

a Accidental.

#### Family PRIONOPIDÆ. (2 species).

Collyriocincla rectirostris, Jard Whistling Shrike-Thrush. & Selby. A Grallina picata, Strick. Magpie Lark.

Family LANIIDÆ— (5 species).

Subfam. GYMNORHININÆ. Gymnorhina hyperleuca, Gould Cracticus cinereus, Gould.

Magpie. Butcher-bird (Jackass).

PACHYCEPHALINÆ.

Pachycephala olivacea, Vig &

Olive Thickhead.

Pachycephala gutturalis, Lath.

White-throated Thick-head. Grev-tailed Thick-

Pachycephala glaucura, Gould.

head.

#### Family—MUSCICAPIDÆ—(8 species).

Subfam. Muscicapinæ.

Subfam.

Rhipidura Diemenensis, Sharpe. Fantail. Leaden Flycatcher. Myiagra rubecula, Lath. Myingra nitida, Gould. Satin Flycatcher.

CPetræca Leggii, Sharpe.

Scarlet-breasted

Petræca Phænicea, Gould.

Flame-brested Robin.

Robin.

Subfam. Saxicolinæ. Petræca Rhodinogaster, Drapiez Pink-brested

Robin.

Petræca vittata, Quoy et Gaimard. Dusky Robin. Malurus Gouldi, Sharpe.

Long-tailed Warbler (Blue Wren).

Family TURDIDÆ—(3 species).

Subfam. TURDINÆ.

Geocichla macrorhyncha, Gould. Ground Thrush.

Subfam. SYLVIINÆ.

Acrocephalus Australis. Gould. Reed Warbler.

Subfam. EPHTHIANURINÆ.

Ephthianura albifrons, Jard & White-fronted Chat.

Selby.

Family TIMELIIDÆ—(8 species).

Subfam. CRATERPODINÆ. , Cinclosoma punctatum, Lath.

The Ground Bird (Ground Dove).

Subfam. TIMALIINÆ. Calamanthus ful nosus. Vig & Horsf.

Striated Field Wren

Subfam. BRACHPYTERINÆ.

Megalurus gramineus, Gould. 1 Stipiturus malachurus, Shaw. Grass Bird. Emu Wren.

a Accidental.

Subfam.

MELIPHAGINÆ.

Subfam.
ACANTHIZINÆ.

Sericornis humilis, Gould.
Acanthornis magna, Gould.
Acanthiza Diemenensis, Gould.
Acanthiza chrysorrhæa, Q. & G. Yellow-rumped Tit (Yellow Tail).

#### Family MELIPHAGIDÆ—(10 species).

(Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris, Spine Bill. Lath.Melithreptus validirostris, Gould Strong-billed Honeyeater. Black-headed Melithreptus melanocephalus, Gould. Honey-eater. Glycyphila fulvifrons, Lewin Tawny-crowned Honey-eater. Ptilotis flavigularis, Gould. Yellow-throated Honey-eater. Meliornis Novæ Hollandiæ, Lath. White-bearded Honey-eater. Meliornis Australasiana, Shaw. Crescent Honeyeater. Manorhina garrula, Lath. Garrulous Honeyeater (Miner). Acanthochæra inauris, Gould. Wattle-bird.

Brush Wattle-bird.

Acanthochæra mellivora, *Lath*.

Section B.

#### Swallow-like Passeres.

(9 Primaries.)

Family ZOSTEROPIDÆ—(1 species).

Zosterops cærulescens, Lath. White-eye.

Family DICÆIDÆ—(3 species).

Pardalotus punctatus, Shaw and Diamond Bird. Nodder.

Pardalotus affinis, Gould. Yellow-tipped Diamond Bird.

Pardalotus quadragintus, Gould. Forty-spotted Diamond Bird.

Family HIRUNDINIDÆ—(2 species).

Subfam. HIRUNDININÆ. Germany Hirundo neoxena, Gould. Australian Swallow. Petrochelidon nigricans, Vieill. Tree Martin.

Family FRINGILLIDÆ.

Subfam. FRINGILLINÆ.

Zonæginthus bellus, Lath. Fire-tailed Finch.

Family MOTACILLIDÆ—(1 species).

Anthus Australis, Vig & Horsf. Pipit.

#### Section B.

#### Starling-like Passeres.

(10 Primaries, 1st Rudimentary). Family ARTAMIDÆ—(1 species).

Artamus sordidus, Lath.

Wood Swallow.

# Order PSITTACI.

Family CACATUIDÆ—(3 species).

Cacatua galerita, Latham. Calyptorynchus xanthonotus, Gould.

Black Cockatoo.

White Cockatoo.

Callocephalon galeatum, Latham. Gang-gang Cocka-

Family PSITTACIDÆ—(6 species).

Platycercus flaviventris, Tem- Green Parrakeet. minck. Platycercus eximius, Shaw.

Neophema venusta, Temminck.

Rosehill Parrakeet. Blue-banded Grass Parrakeet.

Neophema chrysogastra, Latham. Orange-bellied Grass

Nanodes discolor, Shaw. Pezoporus formosus, Latham.

Parrakeet. Swift Parrakeet. Ground Parrakeet.

Family TRICHOGLOSSIDÆ—(3 species).

Subfam.

PLATYCERCINÆ.

Subfam.

Subfam.

CACATUINÆ.

Trichoglossus, Novæ Hollandiæ, Blue-bellied Gmelin. keet. TRICHOGLOSSIN E. Glossopsittacus concinnus, Shaw. Musk Lorikeet. Glossopsittacus pusillus, Shaw. Little Lorikeet.

# Order COLUMBÆ.

Family GOURIDÆ—(2 species).

Phaps chalcoptera, Latham. Phaps elegans, Temminck.

Bronze-wing. Brush Bronze-wing.

# Family TRERONIDÆ—(2 species).

<sup>a</sup> Lamprotreron superbus, Temm. Superb Fruit Pigeon.

<sup>a</sup> Lopholaimus antarcticus, Shaw. Topknot Pigeon.

# Order GALLINÆ.

Family TETRAONIDÆ—(2 species).

Coturnix pectoralis, Gould. Synöicus Diemenensis, Gould.

Stubble Quail. Great Brown or Swamp Quail. Brown Quail.

Synöicus Australis, Latham.

<sup>\*</sup> Accidental.

Family TURNICIDÆ- (1 species).

Turnix varius, Latham.

Painted Quail.

## Order FULICARIÆ.

Family RALLIDÆ--(8 species).

Porphyrio melanotus, Temm. Tribonyx Morticri, Sclater. Fulica Australis, Gould. Hypotænidia phillipinensis, Cuvier.

Hypotænidia brachypus, Swain-

Porzana fluminea, Gould. Porzana palustris, Gould. Porzana tabuensis, Gmelin.

Blue Coot. Native Hen. Coot.

Pectoral Rail.

Short-toed Rail. Spotted Crake. Little Crake. Red-backed Crake.

# Order LIMICOLÆ.

Family ŒDICNEMIDÆ--(1 species). Stone Plover. Burhinus grallarius, Latham.

Family CHARADRIIDÆ—(22 species).

HÆMATOPODINÆ.

Hæmatopus longirostris, Vieill. Hæmatopus unicolor, Wagler.

White-breasted Oyster Catcher. Sooty Oyster Catcher.

Subfam.

Lobivanellus lobatus, Latham.

Wattled Plover (Spurwing.)

LO BIVANNELLINÆ.

Squatarola Helvetica, Linn. Charadrius fulvus, Gmelin. Ægialitis bicincta, Jard. & Selby. Double-banded Sand

Grev Plover. Golden Plover. Plover.

Hooded Sand Plover.

Subfam. CHARADRIINÆ.

Ægialitis monacha, Geoffroy. Ægialitis ruficapilla, Temm.

Red-capped Sand Plover.

Zonifer tricolor Vieillot.

Black-breasted. Plover.

Gallinago Australis, Latham. · Limosa uropygialis, Gould.

Australian Snipe. Barred-rumped Godwit. Green-shank. Common Sand-piper.

Subfam. SCOLOPACINÆ.

Glottis nebularius, Gunnerus. Tringoides hypoleucos. Tringa subarquata, Guldenot. Tringa accuminata, Horst. Tringa ruficollis, Pallas. Strepsilas interpres, Linn. Numenius cyanopus, Vieillott. Numenius phæopus, Linn.

Curlew Stint. Marsh Stint. - Red-breasted Stint. Turnstone.

Australian Curlew. The Whimbrel.

Subfam HIMANTOPODINÆ.

leucocephalus, White-headed Stilt. Himantopus Gould. Cladorhynchus pectoralis, *Dubus*. Banded Stilt. Recurvirostra rubricollis, *Temm*. Red-necked Avocet.

# Order GAVIÆ.

Family LARIDE—(8 species).

Sterna (Hydroprogne) caspia, Caspian Tern. Pallas.

Subfam. STERNINÆ. Sterna poliocerca, Gould. Sterna frontalis, Gray. Sterna nereis, Gould.

Larus

Bass's Straits Tern. Black-billed Tern. White-faced Ternlet

Subfam. LARINÆ.

Latkam. Larus Novæ Hollandiæ, Stephens. Little Gull.

Subfain. STERCORARIINÆ.

Megalestris Antarctica, Lesson. Antarctic Skua. 1 Stercorarius erepidatus, Banks. Richardson's Skua.

(Gabianus) pacificus, Pacific Gull.

## Order TUBINARES.

Family DIOMEDEIDÆ—(6 species).

Diomedea exulans, Linn. Thalassogeron cautus, Gould. Wandering Albatross. White-capped Alba- • tross.

Thalassogeron culminatus, Gould. Flat-billed Albatross. Diomedea melanophrys, Temm. Black-browed Albatross.

Thalassogeron chlororhynchus, Green-billed Albatross. Sooty Albatross. Phæbetria fuliginosa, Gmelin.

Family PUFFINIDÆ\* – (16 species).

Subfam. FULMARINE.

Giant Petrel. Ossifraga gigantea, Gmelin. Cape Petrel. Daption capensis, Linn. Blue Petrel. Halobæna cærulea, Gmelin. Prion desolutus (turtur), Banks. Dove Prion. Fairy Prion. Prion ariel, Gould. Banks' Prion. Prion Banksi, Smith. Broad-billed Prion. | Prion vittatus *Illiger*.

(Majaqueus equinoctialis, Linn. †Priofinus cinereus, Gmelin. Pterodroma macroptera, Smith. Pterodroma atlantica. Gould. Pterodroma Solandri, Gould.

Spectacled Petrel. Grey Petrel. Long-winged Petrel Atlantic Petrel.

Subfam. PUFFININE.

Solander's Petrel. White-headed Petrel. Estrelata Lessoni, Garn. Estrelata leucoptera, Gould. White-winged Petrel. Puffinus tenuirostris, Brandt. Short-tailed Petrel (Mutton Bird). Priocella glacialoides, Smith. Silver-grey Petrel.

<sup>\*</sup> I have not included Forster's Petrel. I am not aware of it having been procured in Tasmanian seas.

<sup>†</sup> Grey Petrel more suitable than "Brown."—("Vernacular List.")

Subfam.

OCEANITINE.

#### Family PROCELLARIIDÆ—(6 species).

(Garrodia nereis, Gould. Grey-backed Storm Petrel. Cymodroma melanogastra, Gould. Black-bellied Storm Petrel. Cymodroma grallaria, Vieill. White-bellied Storm Petrel. Pelagodroma marina, Lath. White-faced Storm Petrel.

Oceanites oceanicus, Kuhl.

Yellow-footed Storm Petrel. Halodroma urinatrix, Lath. Diving Petrel.

## Order STEGANOPODES.

Family PELECANIDÆ—(1 species).

Pelecanus conspicillatus, Temm. Pelican.

# Family PHALACROCORACIDÆ—(4 species.)

Phalacrocorax (novæhollandiæ) Common Cormorant. carbo, Lina.

Phalacrocorax lecuogaster, Gould. White-breasted Cormorant.

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos, Vieill. Phalacrocorax strictocephalus.

Little Black Cormorant.

Little Cormorant.

Family SULIDÆ—(1 species). Sula serrator, Banks.

Australian Gannet.

# Order ANSERES.

Family ANATIDÆ—(14 species).

Subfam. CYGNINÆ. Cygnus atratus, Lath.

Black Swan.

Subfam. ANSERINÆ. Auseranas semipalmata, Lath. Cereopsis Novæ Hollandiæ, Lath. Cape Barren Goose. Chenonetta jubata, Lath. Dendrocycna Eytoni, Gould. Tadorna tadornoides, Jard. & Ruddy Sheldrake. Selby.

Pied Goose. Maned Goose. Eyton's Tree Duck.

Subfam. ANATINÆ. (Stictonetta nevosa, Gould. Anas superciliosa, Gmelin. Anas castanea, Eyton.

Freckled Duck. Wild Duck Chestnut-breasted Duck Australian Shoveller.

Spatula rhynchotis, Lath. Malacorhynchus membranaceus, Membranaceus Swains. Erismatura Australis.

Duck. Blue-billed Duck. Subfam. FULIGULINE.

Nyroca Australis, Gould.

White-eyed Duck.

Subfam. ERISMATURINÆ.

Biziura lobata, Shaw.

Musk Duck.

# Order HERODIONES.

Family ARDEIDÆ—(6 species).

Notophoyx Pacifica, Lath. Notophoyx Novæ Hollandæ, Lath.

Demiegretta sacra, Gmelin. Herodias Timoriensis, Lesson. Nycticorax Caledonicus, Lath. Botaurus poicilopterus, Wagler.

Pacific Heron. White-fronted Heron.

The Reef Heron. White Egret. Night Heron. Bittern.

# Order PYGOPODES.

Family PODICIPIDÆ—(3 species).

Podiceps Cristatus, Gould. Podiceps Nestor, Gould.

Tippet Grebe. Hoary-headed Grebe.

Podiceps Novæ Hollandiæ.

Little Grebe.

### Order IMPENNES.

Family SPHENISCIDÆ—(3 species).

Catarractes chrysocome, Lath. Eudyptula minor, Forster. Eudyptula undina, Gould.

Crested Penguin Little Penguin. Fairy Penguin.