NOTES

ON THE

FAUNA OF TASMANIA,

BY

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P R E F A C E.

The "Notes on the Tasmanian Fauna" have been printed for private circulation only, and principally with a few to draw the attention of our fellow colonists to the productions of their island which are not so well known as might have been expected from the length of its colonization.

It is to be hoped that any omissions on my part will be speedily corrected by resident naturalists; the fishes inhabiting the fresh water streams deserve particular attention, as only four species have been described, though probably many more exist.

According to some residents a species of Flying Phalanger is found in certain parts of the island, said to be introduced from Victoria; if this statement is correct, the animal should be included in the list.
NOTES
ON THE
FAUNA OF TASMANIA.

The following remarks suggested themselves to the writer, after examination of a magnificent series of specimens of Natural History, collected in Tasmania by Mr. George Masters, assistant curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney, who visited Tasmania about a year ago, on behalf of the Trustees of that institution.

It will be observed that, excepting some of the Whales, specimens of all the Mammals known to exist in the island were brought together, not only their skins but also a fine series of skeletons, and young from the pouch, besides a large number of skulls, proving the existence of another species of Thylacine.

The following is a list of the Mammals collected:

PLACENTALIA,
Producing their young in a perfect state and having no pouch or skin-fold for their protection:

1. Canis dingo ...................... The Dingo (now extinct).
3. Stenorhynchus leptonyx ......... Sea Leopard
4. Vespertilio tasmaniensis ........ Tasmanian Bat
5. Scotophilus microdon ........... Small-toothed Bat.
6. Nyctophilus unicolor ............ Long-eared Bat.
8. Mus tasmaniensis—(Kr.,) a new species of land-rat discovered by Mr. George Masters, on the banks of the Ouse River. Except this rat, all the animals mentioned are also found in Victoria and New South Wales.

IMPLACENTALIA.
Producing their young in a very imperfect state and having a pouch or skin-fold for their protection.

Section I.—Marsupialia.

WOMBAT FAMILY.

Phascolomys wombat.......... The Tasmanian Wombat.
Kangaroo Family.

*Halmaturus bennettii* .......... Bennett's Kangaroo.
*Halmaturus billardieri* .......... Tasmanian Wallaby.
*Macropus major* .......... Great or Common Kangaroo.
*Bettongia curriculus* .......... Tasmanian Bettong
*Hypsiprymnus apicidal* .......... Tasmanian Rat-Kangaroo.

Bandicoot Family.

*Perameles gunnii* .......... Gunn's Perameles.
*Perameles obesula* ..........

Phalanger Family.

*Phalangista fuliginosa* .......... Black or Sooty Opossum.
*Phalangista vulpina* .......... Common Opossum.
*Phalangista viverrina* .......... Ring-tail Opossum.
*Dromicia gliriformis* .......... Thick-tailed Dromicia.

Dasyure Family.

*Antechinus swainsonii* .......... Swainson's Antechinus.
*Dasyurus viverrinus* .......... Common Dasyure or Native-Cat.
*Dasyurus maculatus* .......... Spotted-tailed Dasyure or Tiger-Cat.
*Sarcophilus ursinus* .......... Tasmanian Devil, \( T. c y n o c e p h a l u s \) (fossil in N.S. Wales.)
*Thylacinus cynocephalus* .......... Tasmanian Tiger, \( T. b r e v i c e p s \)

Section II.—Monotremata.

*Ornithorhynchus anatinus* .......... Duck-billed Platypus.
*Echidna setosa* .......... Hair Echidna.

A second species of Thylacine recently obtained by Mr. Masters, and which I have described in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London as *Thylacinus breviceps*, must be added to this list.

This is a smaller animal with a shorter head, and much larger teeth than the *T. cynocephalus*, and was well known to many of the old residents of Van Diemen's Land who distinguished the two kinds, so Mr. Masters assures me, by the popular names of Grey-hound and Bull-dog Tigers.

Peculiar to the island are the following mammals:—

The Tasmanian Wombat.
Bennett's Kangaroo.
The Tasmanian Rat Kangaroo
Gunn's Bandicoot.
The Sooty Phalanger.
Thick-tailed Dromicia.
The Tasmanian "Devil"
The Two "Tigers" ; and
The Hairy Echidna or Porcupine Anteater.

With the exception of the "Devil" and "Tigers" all have closely allied representatives on the mainland.
A colder climate always modifies species more or less, and we find the Mammals of Tasmania generally more robust, of larger size, and provided with thicker and darker fur, than those inhabiting New Holland. In the structure, however, of the skull and teeth, but little difference (except in size), is observable in Tasmanian specimens when compared with continental ones. Comparing the fauna of Tasmania with that of the Australian mainland, we arrive at the following result.

The Dingo is extinct,—the Seals and Whales are the same as on our own coast. The insect fauna of the island not being very rich, there are but few insect-feeding bats, three species only are known to our twenty or more Cheiroptera. For similar reasons (the absence of indigenous fruits) no Flying-foxes occur, though if these marauders once found out the richness of Tasmanian plantations, they would soon wing their way across the Straits.

The peculiar Australian Rodent, the Water-rat, or Beaver-rat, is represented by a single species to five on the mainland. Some four or five and twenty other rats and mice are known to inhabit Australia, and only one kind Tasmania. The marsupial order is richer, but here again many species common to our south coast are missing. There are but three Halmaturi, while some forty species inhabit the continent.

Our ten or twelve "Kangaroo-Rats" and "Bettongs," have two representatives in Tasmania, both of which, curious to say, resemble in a most remarkable degree two West Australian species, so much so, that the one can only be distinguished from the other by a close comparison of their skeletons.

One would naturally conclude that a mountainous island like Tasmania, would be the very paradise of "Rock-Wallabies," but none are found there. The absence of the "Koala," or Native Bear, and of all the species of "Flying Phalangers," common in Victoria, is also unaccountable, the more so as the allied "Phalangers," better known as "Brush and Ring-tail Opossums," which subsist on similar food and live in the same forests, thrive well, and attain a great size in that Island.

The small marsupial insectivora allied to the genera Podabrus and Antechinus, are represented in the latter by a single species, though probably a second kind exists, as I received a new form from one of the islands of Bass's Straits, not long ago, which is perhaps also found in Tasmania.

The predominance of the large carnivora over all other animals, is most likely the cause of so limited a number of
species; it is highly probable that many more kinds of Kangaroos once existed, and that they have been exterminated by the ferocious "Tigers" and "Devils" still plentiful in some of the wild districts; if so, their remains will tell whenever the bone-caverns are explored.

The monotremous section of the *Implacentalia* is represented as in Australia by the well known Platypus, and by an Echidna or Ant-eater which appears to differ from our own in nothing but the shorter spines and more hairy fur.

The birds observed amount to one hundred and sixty-two species as follows:

**ORDER—RAPTORES.**

**Family Falconidae.**

*Aquila audax* .................. Eagle Hawk.

*Icthyiaetus leucogaster* ........ White-bellied Sea Eagle.

*Pandion leucocephalus* .......... White-headed Osprey.

*Falco melanogenys* ............. Blacked-cheeked Falcon.

*Falco lunatus* .................. White-fronted Falcon.

*Ieracidea berigora* ............. Brown Hawk.

*Astur novae-hollandiae* ........ New Holland Goshawk.

*Astur approximans* ............ Australian Goshawk.

*Accipiter torquatus* .......... Collared Sparrowhawk.

*Circus assimilis* ............. Allied Harrier.

**Family Strigidae.**

*Strix castanops* ............... Chestnut-faced owl.

*Athene maculata* ............... Spotted Owl.

**ORDER—INSESSORES.**

**Family Caprimulgidae.**

*Ægotheles novæ-hollandiae* ...... Little Morepork.

*Podargus couvieri* ............ Morepork.

**Family Hirundinidae.**

*Acanthylis caudacuta* .......... Spine-tailed Swallow.

*Hirundo frontalis* ........... Welcome Swallow.

*Collocalia arborea* ........... Tree Swallow.

**Family Alcedinidae.**

*Alcyone diemenensis* .......... Tasmanian Kingfisher.

**Family Artamidae.**

*Artamus sordidus* ............. Wood Swallow.
Family Ampelidæ.

_Pardalotus punctatus_ ........... Diamond-bird.
_Pardalotus affinis_ ............... Allied Diamond-bird.
_Pardalotus quadragintus_ ........ Forty Spotted Pardalote.

Family Laniidæ.

_Strepera fuliginosa_ ............. Sooty Crow-Shrike.
_Strepera arguta_ ................. Hill Crow-Shrike.
_Gymnornhina organicum_ .......... Tasmanian Crow-Shrike.
_Cracticus cinereus_ .............. Cinereous Crow-shrike.

Family Campephaginæ.

_Graucalus parvirostris_ .......... Tasmanian Graucalus.
_Pachycephala graucalus_ .......... Grey-tailed Thickhead.
_Pachycephala olivacea_ .......... Native Thrush.
_Colluricincla selbii_ ............ Whistling Dick.

Family Muscicapidæ.

_Rhipidura albiscapa_ ............. White-shafted Fantail.

Family Saxicolidæ.

_Erythrodryas rhodinogaster_ ...... Pink-breasted Wood Robin
_Petroica multicolor_ ............. Scarlet-breasted Robin.
_Petroica phœnicea_ ............... Flame-breasted Robin
_Petroica fusca_ .................. Dusky Robin.

Family Maluridæ.

_Malurus longicaudus_ ............ Blue Wren.
_Stipiturus malachurus_ ........... Emu Wren.
_Sericornis humilis_ .............. Sombre Sericornis.
_Acanthiza diemenensis_ .......... Tasmanian Acanthiza.
_Acanthiza magnia_ ............... Great Acanthiza.
_Acanthiza chryssorrhoea_ ........ Yellow-rumped Acanthiza.
_Calamanthus fuliginosus_ ......... Striated Calamanthus.

Family Motacillidæ.

_Anthus australis_ ................ Australian Pipit.
_Sphenœacus gramineus_ ........... Tawny Grass-bird.

Family Fringillidæ.

_Estrela bella_ .................... Fire-tail.

Family Merulidæ.

_Cinclosoma punctata_ ............ Spotted Ground Thrush.
_Oreocincla lunulata_ ............. Mountain Thrush.

Family Corvidæ.

_Corvus australis_ ................ White-eyed Crow.
Family Meliphagidæ.

Meliphaga novaë hollandiae.............. New Holland Honey-eater.
Meliphaga australasiana................. Tasmanian Honey-eater.
Glyciphila fulvifrons.................... Fulvous-fronted Honey-eater.
Ptilotis flavigula....................... Yellow-throated Honey-eater.
Anthochaera inauris.................... Wattle-bird.
Anthochaera mellivora.................. Brush Wattle-bird
Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris......... Strong-billed Honey-eater, or
Melithreptus validirostris............ Cherry-picker.
Melithreptus melanocephalus.......... Black-headed Honey-eater.
Myzantha garrula....................... Miner.
Zosterops caeruleascens............... Grey-backed Zosterops.

Family Cuculidæ.

Cuculus inornatus....................... Plain Cuckoo.
Cuculus cinnareus...................... Grey Cuckoo.
Chrysococcyx lucidus.................. Bronze Cuckoo.

Family Psittacidæ.

Cacatua galerita....................... Common Cockatoo.
Calyptorhynchus xanthonyx............... Black Cockatoo.
Callocephalon galericatum.............. Gang Gang Cockatoo.
Platycercus flaviventris.............. Green Parrakeet.
Platycercus eximius................... Rose Hill Parrakeet or Rosella
Euphema chrysostoma................... Blue-banded Grass-Parrakeet.
Euphema aurantia...................... Orange-bellied Grass-Parrakeet
Pezoporus formosus.................... Swamp Parrakeet.
Lathamus discolor....................... Swift Parrakeet.
Trichoglossus swainsonii.............. Blue Mountain Parrakeet.
Trichoglossus concinnus............... Musk Parrakeet.
Trichoglossus pustilus................ Small Parrakeet.

ORDER—RASORES.

Family Columbidae.

Phaps chalcoptera...................... Common Bronze-wing.
Phaps elegans......................... Brush Bronze-wing.

Family Turnicidæ.

Turnix varius......................... Painted Quail.

Family Perdicidæ.

Coturnix pectoralis.................... Pectoral Quail, Stubble Quail.
Synoicus australis..................... Brown Quail.
Synoicus diemenensis.................. Tasmanian Partridge.
ORDER—GRALLATORES.

Family Struthionidæ.

*Dromaius novæ hollandiæ* .......... (Emu, extinct; no specimens having been observed for thirty years.

Family Charadriadæ.

*Hæmatopus longirostris* .......... White-breasted Oyster-catcher.
*Hæmatopus fuliginosus* .......... Black Oyster-catcher.
*Sarciaphorus pectoralis* .......... Black-breasted Plover.
*Squatarola helvetica* .......... Grey Plover, or Sand Piper.
*Charadrius orientalis* .......... Golden Plover.
*Hiaticula monacha* .......... Hooded Dottrel.
*Hiaticula ruficapilla* .......... Red-capped Dottrel.
*Hiaticula inornata* .......... Allied Dottrel.
*Hiaticula bicincta* .......... Double-banded Dottrel.

Family Recurvirostridæ.

*Limosa uropygialis* .......... Barred-rumped Godwit.

Family Tringidæ.

*Schaeniclus australis* .......... Marsh Tringa.
*Schaeniclus subtorquatus* .......... Curlew Sandpiper.
*Schaeniclus albecens* .......... Little Sandpiper.
*Strepselas interpres* .......... Turnstone.

Family Scolecidæ.

*Gallinago australis* .......... New Holland Snipe.

Family Tantalidæ.

*Numenius australis* .......... Australian Curlew.

Family Ardeidæ.

*Ardea novæ-hollandiæ* .......... Blue crane.
*Botaurus australis* .......... Australian Bittern.

Family Rallidæ.

*Porphyrio melanotus* .......... Red bill.
*Tribonyx mortierii* .......... Native Hen.
*Rallus lewinii* .......... Lewin’s Rail.
*Rallus pectoralis* ..........
*Porzana fluminea* .......... Spotted Water Crake.
*Porzana palustris* .......... Little Water Crake.
*Porzana immaculata* .......... Little Swamp Hen.
ORDER—NATATORES.

Family Anatidae.

Cygnus atratus ......................... Black Swan.
Cereopsis nova-hollandiae ................ Cape Barren Goose.
Casarca tadornoides ................... Mountain Duck.
Anas superciliosa ..................... Black Duck.
Anas punctata ......................... Teal.
Spatula rhynchos ...................... Shoveller.
Malarcorhynchus membranaceus ........ Pink-eyed Duck.
Nyroca australis ...................... White-winged Duck.
Biziura lobata ......................... Musk Duck.

Family Laridae.

Larus pacificus ....................... Pacific Gull.
Xema jamesonii ....................... Jameson’s Gull.
Lestris cattaractes .................. Skua Gull.
Sylvachelidon strenus ............... Caspian Tern.
Thalasseus poliocercus ............. Bass’s Straits Tern.
Sterna gracilis ....................... Graceful Tern.
Sternula nereis ....................... Little Tern.

Family Procellaridae.

Diomedea exulans ................... Wandering Albatross.
Diomedea cauta ....................... Shy Albatross.
Diomedea culminata ................. Culminated Albatross.
Diomedea chlororhynchos .......... Yellow-nosed Albatross.
Diomedea melanophris .............. Black-eyebrowed Albatross.
Diomedea fuliginosa ................. Sooty Albatross.
Procellaria gigantea ............... Giant Petrel.
Procellaria conspicillata .......... Spectacled Petrel.
Procellaria hasitata ............... Great Grey Petrel.
Procellaria macroptera ............. Great Winged Petrel.
Procellaria atlantica ............. Atlantic Petrel.
Procellaria solanderii ............. Solander’s Petrel.
Procellaria leucocephala .......... White-headed Petrel.
Procellaria mollis .................. Soft-plumaged Petrel.
Procellaria leucoptera ............. White-winged Petrel.
Procellaria cookii ................. Cook’s Petrel.
Procellaria caerulea ............... Blue Petrel.
Procellaria glacialoXdes .......... Silvery-grey Petrel.
Puffinus brevicandatus .......... Short-tailed Petrel.
Daption capensis .................... Cape Pigeon.
Prion turtur .................................. Whale Bird.
Prion ariel .................................. Fairy Whale Bird.
Prion banksii ................................ Bank’s Whale Bird.
Prion vittatus ................................ Broad-billed Whale Bird.
Thalassidroma nereis ....................... Grey-backed Storm Petrel.
Thalassidroma wilsonii ....................... Wilson’s Storm Petrel.
Thalassidroma melanogaster ............... Black-bellied Storm Petrel.
Thalassidroma leucogaster ............... White-bellied Storm Petrel.
Puffinuria urinatrix ........................ Diving Petrel.

**Family Pelicanidæ.**

*Pelecanus conspicillatus* .................. Australian Pelican.
*Phalacrocorax nova-hollandiae* ........ Australian Cormorant.
*Phalacrocorax leucogaster* ............... White-breasted Cormorant.
*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus* .............. Little Cormorant.
*Sula australis* .............................. Australian Gannet.

**Family Podicipidæ.**

*Podiceps australis* ........................ Diver.
*Podiceps poliocephalus* ................... Grey-headed Diver.
*Podiceps gularis* .......................... Black-throated Diver.

**Family Spheniscidæ.**

*Eudyptes chrysocome* ....................... Crested Penguin.
*Spheniscus minor* .......................... Little Penguin.
*Spheniscus undina* ........................ Fairy Penguin.

Of the above list, forty-three are roaming sea birds, only twenty-six kinds are peculiar to the island, and six of these are very doubtful species, so that we cannot put down more than twenty birds, so limited in their habitat.

The most interesting of them are the large Gill-bird *Anthochaera inauris*; the Tasmanian Parrakeet, *Platycercus flavi-ventris*; the large Quail, *Synoicus dimenensis*; and the great Water-hen, *Tribonyx mortierii*.

The reptiles, as might be expected from a cold climate, are few in number. I do not think that Tasmania furnishes more than two or three species to the Australian fauna. The well known *Hinulia whiteii*, the peculiar *Omolepida casuarine*, a *Grammatophora*, two small species of *Hinulia*, and a *Cyclodus* (*Cyclodus nigroluteus*), allied to our “Sleeping Lizard,” are all the saurians known to exist there.

No tortoise inhabits the Tasmanian streams. Snakes abound, but the number of species is limited to two highly venomous
kinds, and a small one, venomous but not dangerous. Not a single innocuous snake has as yet been discovered.

All the snakes belong to the peculiar Australian genus *Hoplocephalus*, and are local varieties of continental forms. They go under different names in Tasmania however, such as "Black Snake," "Carpet Snake," and "Diamond Snake."

The first two are varieties of our "Brown-banded Snake," *Hoplocephalus curtus*, and named "Black Snake" if of a dark color; and "Carpet Snake," if light, with the cross-bands visible. The Museum is indebted to Mr. Masters for a fine series of both, and having taken thirty-five young (some black, and some with visible cross-bands) from the same mother, the identity of both is sufficiently proved.

The term "Carpet Snake" is not well chosen, and leads to frequent mistakes here and in Tasmania, as our own "Carpet Snake" (*Morelia variegata*), belongs to the Python tribe and is not venomous.

The second dangerous snake is *Hoplocephalus superbis*, the "Tiger Snake" of Victoria, known to Tasmanians as the "Diamond Snake," another popular name which leads to confusion if we bear in mind that the "Diamond Snake" (*Morelia spilotes*) of the south-eastern coast of New South Wales is a member of the Python family and harmless.

The third venomous snake is the *Hoplocephalus coronoides*, or "Black-bellied Snake," of small size and wide range. This snake, even when handled, seldom, if ever, offers to bite, and the wound caused by it is not as bad as the sting of a bee.

Two other small snakes (*Brachysoma bimaculatum* and *B. calonotos*), discovered by Mons. Verreaux in 1844, are mentioned by Messrs. Dumeel and Bibron, as inhabitants of Tasmania; since then no more specimens have come to hand from the same locality, and we may fairly conclude that the habitat given by M. Verreaux is erroneous.

The Tasmanian frogs are also few in number. The *Hylae*, or "Tree Frogs," represent three species, viz., the common "Golden Tree Frog," *Hyla aurea*; "Ewing's Tree Frog," *Hyla ewingii*; and a kind, which I consider to be identical with *Hyla verreauxii*, all of which are common on the mainland of Australia. Of Swamp-frogs, we find the widely distributed *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*, a *Pseudophryne* discovered by Mr. Masters, and probably new, *Pterophrynus tasmaniensis* and *P. laris*, the two latter much infected by the larvae of a small fly of the Genus *Batrachyomya* (Macleay), which insects are also found on allied species in Australia.
These are all the species of frogs known from Tasmania, up to the present time.

The fishes, such as inhabit fresh water only, are also limited. No *Eleotris*, known here as the “Gudgeon,” is as yet recorded, though the genus exists in Australia, New Zealand, and South America; of the *Galaxidae*, the so-called “Black-fish,” appears to be most common in the Tasmanian streams; this is Richardson’s *Galaxias truttaceus*; we also have specimens of the *Galaxias attenuatus*, from the Ouse River, collected by Mr. Masters; the “Common Eel,” *Anguilla australis*, and the well known “Fresh-water Herring,” *Proto troctes marana*. I wish I could have added the Salmon, but at present no authenticated specimens exist in any of our colonial museums. Competent judges state that the Salmon has been duly acclimatized, and has been frequently observed in the Derwent, it is therefore much to be regretted, that no specimen has yet been caught, if only to prove beyond doubt the success of one of the greatest experiments of modern times.

In summing up the whole Vertebrata of the island, leaving out the extinct Dingo, Seals, Whales, and Marine fish, we find there are

27 Mammals
162 Birds
6 Lizards
3 Snakes
7 Frogs, and
4 Fresh-water Fishes.

Together 209 Vertebrata

about thirty-seven of which may be considered peculiar to Tasmania.

The Invertebrata were collected to the number of more than one thousand species, that is to say, of the class Insecta, nine hundred and fifty species, and ninety-eight of the class Mollusca; twenty-one of the latter are Land-shells, and nearly all peculiar to Tasmania. The insects appear, with few exceptions, to be identical with Australian species.

The following is a list of the Invertebrata:

**CLASS INSECTA.**

**Order—Coleoptera.**

640 species, and 7662 specimens.
Order—Diurnal Lepidoptera.

Papilio macleayanus.
Pyrameis itea.
Pyrameis cardui.
Junonia vellida.
Lasiommata merope.
Lasiommata philerope.
Lasiommata singa.
Lasiommata lathoniella.
Lasiommata hobartia.
Satyrus (one very rare species).
Lycaena (four species).
Pamphila (two species.)
Together sixteen species of Lepidoptera.

Order—Hymenoptera.
90 species and 478 specimens.

Order—Diptera.
86 species and 689 specimens.

Order—Neuroptera, Orthoptera, &c.
14 species.

Order—Hemiptera.
70 species and 394 specimens.

Order—Homoptera.
34 species and 137 specimens.

Class Mollusca.

98 species and 960 specimens, whereof the following are Land shells, and, except Helix morti, are all peculiar to Tasmania.

Helix minima (Cox)
Helix subangulata (Pfr.)
Helix bombycina (Pfr.)
Helix diemenensis (Cox)
Helix morti (Cox)
Helix tasmaniae (Cox)
Helix hobarti (Cox)
Helix legrandi (Cox)
Helix simillis (Cox)
Helix lampra (Pfr.)
Helix lamproides (Cox)
Helix wellingtonensis (Cox)
Helix launcestonensis (Reeve)
Helix bisulcata (Pfr.)
Helix sinclairi (Pfr.)
Helix hamiltoni (Cox)
Bulimus dufresnii (Leach)
Bulimus tasmanicus (Pfr.)
Vitrina milligani (Pfr.)
Vitrina verreauxi (Pfr.)
Succinea australis (Fer.)