

## TASMANIAN BIRDS.

BY MALCOM HARRISON

(Communicated by A. Morton).

ON MR. A. J. NORTH'S BOOK *re* TASMANIAN BIRDS.PAGE 51. No. 85 GOULD. *PARDALOTUS AFFINIS*.

Mr. North says—"This bird constructs its nest," etc., etc., "in a hole in some decayed branch of a tree." In the sandy cliffs on the banks of the Derwent, at Berriedale, these birds nest in considerable numbers, making tiny burrows into the cliffs after the manner of *Pardalotus punctatus*. I am not aware, however, of any other locality in which they nest underground.

PAGE 144. No. 231 GOULD. *EPHETHIANURA ALBIFRONS*.

This bird is not mentioned in Mr. North's book as inhabiting Tasmania. It is, however, fairly plentiful in localities suited to its habits in Southern Tasmania, but I have no record of its being found north of Ross. I have seen the birds, nests, and eggs at Bridgewater, Sandford, Brighton Plains, etc.

PAGE 220. No. 339 GOULD. *ACANTHORHYNCHUS TENUIROSTRIS*.

Tasmania is not mentioned in connection with this bird, but possibly Mr. North may not consider the Tasmanian species identical with that of Australia. They are found wherever *Epacris impressa* abounds, but I have seen them in the greatest numbers on the East Coast. About Eaglehawk Neck they are particularly plentiful. The nests, which somewhat resemble those of *Zosterops cerulescens*, though more compactly built, are rather difficult to find, being coated with green moss and artfully concealed in the surrounding foliage. Last season I took two nests, each

containing two eggs, the usual clutch, although three are occasionally met with. In each instance the nests were in the topmost twigs of *Acacia verticillata*, about 12 feet from the ground, but *Leptospermum lan* is another favourite shrub for nesting.

PAGE 252. NO. 402 GOULD. CALYPTORHYNCHUS XANTHANOTUS.

As to time of nesting, Mr. North quotes Gould, who gives October and November, on the authority of Mr. G. French Angus. I do not think this can be correct as regards the Tasmanian bird, for I can obtain no authentic data as to its nesting before Christmas. Mr. Gordon Allport knows of trees having been felled and young birds found just hatched well on in the new year; and two sets of eggs in my collection were taken, one on January 23, 1896, the other on January 2, 1897, quite fresh. Both sets were obtained by Mr. Leslie Burbury.

NO. 573 GOULD. PORZANA FLUMINEA.

This bird is not mentioned by Mr. North. The first nest of this species found by myself was at Bridgewater on the 29th September, 1894, the bird flying from the nest at my feet and continuing the flight for about 100 yards. The nest itself contained four eggs (partly incubated and thickly coated with mud), and was placed in a small tussock of rushes about a foot or so above the water, the materials used in construction being the fibres of rushes and grass. Eggs, olive green, spotted and blotched with dark brown. Another nest found by myself on 19th September, 1896, contained five eggs, and was placed in the centre of a large clump of "cutting grass," about 18 inches above the water. Judging by the colour and measurements given, these eggs were mistaken by Gould for those of Lewin's Water Rail. The eggs of the latter are considerably larger, and of a creamy white ground colour, while the markings are red brown and light purple grey.

NO. 533 GOULD. GALLINAGO AUSTRALIS.

No mention made. Arrives in Tasmania in September.

The following birds are not mentioned as being found in Tasmania:—

No.	13	GOULD.	TINNUNCULUS CENCHROIDES.
„	36	„	SPILOGLAUX BOOBOOK.
„	246	„	CALAMOHERPE AUSTRALIS.
„	275	„	OREOCNICLA LUNULATA.
„	271	„	CINCLOSOMA PUNCTATUM.
„	502	„	SARCIOPHORUS PECTORALIS.
„	577	„	CHENOPIS ATRATA.
„	584	„	CASARCA TADORNOIDES.
„	595	„	BIZIURA LOBATA.
„	656	„	PHALACROCORAX STICTOCEPHALUS.