

below these parts (Notes on Dissection of Active Gibbon, Zoological Journal, vol. v. p. 14).

The foot is remarkable for the smallness of the os calcis, a character common to the Orangs and the lower Monkeys, and which, giving less basal surface to the foot, indicates less power of supporting the frame in the erect posture. The hind-foot is formed for grasping the branches of trees and not for walking on the ground. The metatarsal bones decrease in strength (as in the hand) from the first towards the little finger. The thumb is strongly formed, especially its metatarsal bone. The ungual phalanges are wanting in the second and third finger, and the ungual and penultimate in the little finger of the only hind extremity mounted on the skeleton. These defects in the hind-foot arise from the animal having been affected some time previous to her death with a morbid state of constitution (supposed to arise from confinement), which caused her to gnaw off the ends of some of her fingers. The foot is thrown less on the external edge than in the lower *Quadrumana*.

I am fully conscious of the imperfection of this account of the osteology of the Active Gibbon, yet trust that I have called attention to some points in which the organization of the skeleton is beautifully adapted to the habits of the creature. No part of the studies of a naturalist is more interesting or instructive than thus to trace, however imperfectly, the hand of an all-wise Creator in the works of nature.

EDW. FRY.

The next paper contained "Descriptions of eleven new species of Australian Birds," by John Gould, Esq. :—

ATHENE MARMORATA. *Ath. omni superiore corpore, alis, caudâque, saturatè fuscis, nuchâ autem, alarum tectricibus, et scapularibus, obscurè albo maculatis; pogoniis internis primariorum ad basin et rectricum lateralium fasciis stramineis, ad extremam pogoniam albicantibus, ornatis; facie et mento albidis; corpore inferiore saturatè fusco, albo et arenaceo colore maculato.*

All the upper surface, wings and tail dark brown, obscurely spotted with white round the back of the neck, on the wing-coverts and scapularies; inner webs of the primaries at their base, and the inner webs of the lateral tail-feathers crossed by bands, which are buff next the shaft and white towards the extremity of the webs; face and chin whitish; under surface dark brown, blotched with white and sandy brown; legs and thighs fawn-colour; bill horn-colour; feet yellow.

Total length, 14 inches; bill, $1\frac{1}{2}$; wing, $9\frac{1}{2}$; tail, 6; tarsi, 2.

Hab. South Australia.

Remark.—Nearly allied to *Athene maculata*, but much exceeding that species in size.

ATHENE RUFA. *Ath. disco faciali saturatè fusco; omni corpore, suprâ saturatè fusco, infrâ arenaceo-rufo, multis autem lineis rufo-fuscis transversim fasciato.*

Facial disc dark brown; all the upper surface dark brown, crossed by numerous narrow bars of reddish brown, the tints becoming paler

and the barrings larger and more distinct on the lower part of the body, wings and tail; all the under surface sandy red, crossed by numerous bars of reddish brown; the feathers of the throat with a line of brown down the centre; vent, legs and thighs of a paler tint, with the bars more numerous, but not so decided; bill horn-colour; toes yellowish, slightly clothed with feathers.

Total length, 20 inches; bill, $1\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $13\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $9\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $2\frac{1}{4}$.

Hab. Port Essington.

Remark.—A very powerful species, nearly allied to *Athene strenua*.

ALCYONE PULCHRA. *Alc. omni corpore superiore splendide purpurascence-cyaneo; alis fusco-nigris; loris, cristula post aurem, et guld, stramineis; lateribus pectoris purpurascence-cyaneis, in vini colorem ad latera mergentibus.*

All the upper surface shining purplish blue; wings brownish black; lores, tuft behind the ear and throat buff; under surface deep ferruginous orange; sides of the chest fine purplish blue, passing into a rich vinous tint on the flanks; irides and bill black; feet orange.

Total length, 6 inches; bill, 2; wing, $2\frac{7}{8}$; tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $\frac{3}{8}$.

Hab. Port Essington.

Remark.—This is by far the finest of the Australian Alcyones, and is at once distinguished by the rich blue of the upper surface and the beautiful vinous colouring of the flanks.

ALCYONE DIEMENENSIS. *Alc. omni superiore corpore intense cyaneo, ad uropygium et tectrices caudae superiores splendidius; alis nigris cyaneo lavatis; guld straminea; vertice nigro indistincte fasciato.*

All the upper surface deep blue, becoming more vivid on the rump and upper tail-coverts; wings black, washed with blue; throat buff; under surface of the body and wings ferruginous orange; on each side of the chest a patch of bluish black; lores and a small patch behind the ears buff; crown of the head indistinctly barred with black; irides and bill black; feet orange.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, 2; wing, $3\frac{1}{8}$; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$.

Hab. Van Diemen's Land.

Remark.—Rather more robust than *Alcyone azurea* or *A. pulchra*, and differing from both in the blue of the upper surface, which is less brilliant and of a slight greenish tinge.

EÖPSALTRIA LEUCOGASTER. *Eöps. parvo maculo triangulari ante oculum nigro; vertice, corpore superiore, alis caudaeque, saturate griseis; corpore inferiore albo.*

Immediately before the eye a small triangular-shaped spot of black; above the eye a faint line of greyish white; crown of the head, all the upper surface, wings and tail dark slate-grey; the lateral tail-feathers largely tipped with white on their inner webs; all the under surface white; irides dark brown; bill and feet black.

Total length, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $1\frac{1}{8}$; wing, 3; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$.

Hab. Western Australia.

The sexes are alike in plumage.

STREPERA ARGUTA. *Strep. toto corpore nigro; remigum apicibus*