

V.—On the Birds collected at Cape York, Australia, and on the Neighbouring Islands (Raine, Wednesday, and Booby Islands). By W. A. FORBES, F.Z.S.

(Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for 1878.)

The collection of Birds made by H.M.S. Challenger at Cape York and in its neighbourhood, of which the following is an account, comprises 61 skins; referable to 37 species. As might have been expected, all, or nearly all, belong to well known Australian forms, one or two only being left uncertain for want of more materials and on account of the immature condition of the specimens. Most of the skins are in excellent condition; and their value is much increased by the notes in Mr Murray's journal as to the colour of the soft parts, &c. Besides Cape York, Raine Island (at the end of the Barrier Reef), Wednesday Island (in Torres Straits), and Booby Island (also in Torres Straits) were visited, and collections made. I copy the following extracts from Mr Murray's journal as regards the localities where Birds were obtained:—

"Raine Island, Barrier Reef, Australia. Ship landed two boats for nearly three hours. The following birds were taken" (several sea-birds, *Rallus pectoralis*, and *Strepsilas interpres*).

"Cape York, Somerset. Ship arrived on evening of 1st September 1874; left Cape York on September 8." (44 skins were obtained here).

"Wednesday Island, Torres Straits. Parties landed the same day (September 8). Most of the birds seen were the same as those shot about Cape York. The following two, however, have not been procured at Cape York; they were shot on shore (*Totanus incanus* and *Ægialites inornatus*). A great many flocks of Bee-eaters were noticed making passages between the islands."

"On 9th September 1874, a party landed on Booby Island, a very small island, with only a few shrubs on it. The following land birds were shot or brought on board; and in addition a Rail was seen, a *Megapodius*, and one other land bird." (The species obtained were *Todirhamphus sanctus*, *Merops ornatus*, *Zosterops luteus*, *Pachycephala*, sp., *Ptilopus superbus*, and *Synæcus cervinus*.)

In the following list I have, with a few exceptions, followed the arrangement and nomenclature of Mr Gould's Handbook to the Birds of Australia.

1. *Ninox boobook*, Lath.

Ninox boobook, Sharpe, Cat. of B., vol. ii. p. 168; Forbes, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1878, p. 121.
Spiloglaux marmoratus, Gould, Handb. B. Austr., vol. i. p. 73.

One male skin of this species from Cape York. No. 167. [Stomach contained insects.]