

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *PŒPHILA*.

By ALFRED J. NORTH, C.M.B.O.U., C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist.

*PŒPHILA NEGLECTA*, *sp. nov.*

*Adult male*.—General colour above rich cinnamon-brown, slightly darker on the lower back; rump black; upper tail-coverts black, some of the longer feathers margined with white at the tips; upper wing-coverts brown, the lesser and median series washed with cinnamon-brown, the greater series indistinctly edged with cinnamon-brown; quills brown with a dusky wash which is more distinct towards the tips of the primaries, and on the innermost secondaries; tail black; head ashy-grey; lores black; cheeks and ear-coverts pearl grey, the plumes of the latter of a silky texture; throat velvety-black, remainder of the under surface rich cinnamon-brown; lower portion of the abdomen black; lower flank feathers black tipped with white; under tail-coverts dull white; bill black. Total length 3·8 inches, wing 2·4, tail 1·5, bill 0·4, tarsus 0·6.

*Hab.*—Queensland?

*Type.*—In the Australian Museum.

*Remarks.*—The distinctly darker under surface of *Pœphila neglecta*, is sufficient to distinguish it from any other cinnamon-coloured ally of the genus. Its nearest ally is *Pœphila atropygialis* (Diggles), Castlenau and Ramsay. From that species, however, it may be distinguished by its darker upper and under parts, and by having the longer black upper tail-coverts margined with white at the tips. Vernacularly it may be known as the Cinnamon-coloured Grass-Finch.

The above description is taken from a specimen received by the Trustees in June, 1877, from Mr. J. A. Thorpe. In the Old Register, the locality is recorded as Macquarie River, New South Wales. Unless an escaped cage-bird, which it does not appear to be, as it is in perfect plumage, the locality given is undoubtedly an error.

*Pœphila atropygialis*, was described as a new species by the late Comte de Castlenau and Dr. E. P. Ramsay in the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales in 1877.<sup>1</sup> The type

<sup>1</sup> Castlenau & Ramsay—Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, i., 4, 1877, p. 382.