CHLAMYDODERA MACULATA (*Gould*).

71.

Spotted Bower-bird.

Calodera maculata, Gould, P. Z. S. 1836, p. 106.—Id. Syn. B. Austr. part i. (1837).
Chlamydera maculata, Gould, B. Austr. part i. (1837, cancelled).—Id. op. cit. iv. pl. 8 (1841).—Gray, Gen. B. ii. p. 225 (1846).—Bp. Consp. Av. i. p. 370 (1850).—Diggles, Orn. Austr. i. p. 52, pl. 52 (c. 1867). —Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 294, no. 4340 (1869).
Chlamydodera maculata, Cab. Mus. Hein. Th. i. p. 212 (Oct. 1851).—Gould, Handb. B. Austr. i. p. 450 (1865). —Ramsay, Ibis, 1866, p. 329.—Elliot, Monogr. Parad. pl. xxx. (1873).—Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 605. —Id. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. ii. p. 188 (1878).—Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vi. p. 389 (1881).— Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. vii. p. 409, pl. iii. fig. 2 (1883).—North, op. cit. (2) i. pp. 1157, 1165 (1887).—Ramsay, Tab. List Austr. B. p. 11 (1888).—North, Descr. Cat. Nests and Eggs Austr. B. p. 178, pl. xi. fig. 5 (1889).—Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, iv. p. xiv (1894).
Ptilorhynchus maculatus, Schl. Mus. Pays-Bas, Coraces, p. 119 (1867).

The Spotted Bower-bird is distinguished by the reddish spots or bars at the tips of the feathers of the upper surface, which give the bird a strongly mottled appearance, as well as by the dusky spots and bars on the flanks and throat. The head is rufous brown, varied with blackish edgings and spots on the feathers, and the male has a lilac band on the nape.

Mr. E. P. Ramsay, in his 'Tabular List of Australian Birds,' gives the range of the species as from Cape York and Rockingham Bay to Port Denison, the Dawson River, and the Wide Bay district, as well as New South Wales, the interior of Australia to Victoria, and South Australia. Mr. A. G. North also adds the Clarence River district as a habitat of the species, so that its range is complete from Cape York to New South Wales and thence west to Victoria and South Australia.

In his 'Descriptive Catalogue of the Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania,' Mr. North writes:—"Our knowledge of the range of this species has recently been extended to Cape York. Previously Rockingham Bay was considered its northern limit on the coast, and the Murray district in Victoria and South Australia its most southern range. The interior provinces are the stronghold of this species, where it is found plentifully dispersed all over the Lachlan and Darling River districts. It also occurs inland eighty miles west from Rockhampton."

Gould has given the following account of the species in his 'Handbook to the Birds of Australia':—

"During my journey into the interior of New South Wales, I observed this bird to be tolerably abundant at Brezi on the river Mokai to the northward of the Liverpool Plains: it is also equally numerous in all the low scrubby ranges in the neighbourhood of the Namoi, as well as in the open brushes which intersect the plains on its borders; and collections from Moreton Bay generally contain examples; still from the extreme shyness of its disposition, the bird is seldom seen by ordinary travellers, and it must be under very peculiar circumstances that it can be approached sufficiently close to observe its colours. The Spotted Bower-bird has a harsh, grating, scolding note, which is generally uttered when its haunts are intruded on, and by this means its presence is detected when it would otherwise escape observation. When disturbed it takes to the topmost branches of the loftiest trees, and frequently flies off to another neighbourhood.

"In many of its actions and in the greater part of its economy much similarity exists between this species and the Satin Bower-bird, particularly in the curious habit of constructing an artificial bower or playing-place. I was so far fortunate as to discover several of these bowers during my journey in the interior, the finest of which I succeeded in bringing to England; it is now in the British Museum. The situations of these runs or bowers are much varied: I found them both on the plains studded with Myalls (*Acacia pendula*) and other small trees, and in the brushes clothing the lower hills. They are considerably longer and more avenue-like than those of the Satin Bower-bird, being in many instances three feet in length. They are outwardly built of twigs, and beautifully lined with tall grasses, so disposed that their heads nearly meet; the decorations are very profuse, and consist of bivalve shells, crania of small mammalia and other bones bleached by exposure to the rays of the sun or from the camp-fires of the natives. Evident indications of high instinct are manifest throughout the bower and decorations formed by this species, particularly in the manner in which the stones are placed within the bower, apparently to keep the grasses with which it is lined fixed