

favourably situated for so doing ; for my own part I see no reason why a bird should not pass a portion of its existence in a state of hybernation as well as some species of quadrupeds, animals much higher in the scale of creation.

So great a similarity in plumage reigns throughout the first four of the species enumerated below that I have thought it unnecessary to figure more than two, viz. *P. humeralis* and *P. Cuvieri*; the other two may be readily distinguished by the descriptions I have given of them, particularly if the localities be attended to.

40. *Podargus megacephalus*.

Caprimulgus megacephalus, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp., p. lviii.

Great-headed Goatsucker, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp., vol. ii. p. 265.—Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. x. p. 141.—Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. vii. p. 364.

Wedge-tailed Goatsucker, Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. vii. p. 368?

Podargus Stanleyanus, Lath. MSS., Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans., vol. xv. p. 197?

In the general colouring, form and arrangement of its markings, this species so closely resembles the *P. humeralis*, that one description applies equally to both ; but it may be distinguished by its being somewhat larger in the body and much larger in the head, and by the very great development of the mandibles.

It inhabits the brushes of the east coast, and in its habits and economy resembles the other species of the group.

41. *Podargus humeralis*, Vig. & Horsf. Vol. II. Pl. 3.

42. *Podargus Cuvieri*, Vig. & Horsf. Vol. II. Pl. 4.

43. *Podargus brachypterus*, Gould.

Podargus brachypterus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VIII. p. 163.

In its general appearance this bird closely resembles the *P. humeralis*, but is even smaller in size than *P. Cuvieri*, while at the same time the bill is larger than that of the former species, and projects much farther from the face than in any other of its congeners ; it also differs in the shortness of its wings, which circumstance suggested the specific appellation I have assigned to it.

It is a native of Western Australia.

44. *Podargus Phalænoïdes*, Gould Vol. II. Pl. 5.

45. *Podargus plumiferus*, Gould Vol. II. Pl. 6.

GENUS EUROSTOPODUS, Gould.

Generic characters.

Bill somewhat more produced and stouter than in *Caprimulgus*: *nostrils* lateral and linear ; *rietus* entirely devoid of bristles, but furnished with short, weak, divided and branching hairs ; *wings* longer and more powerful than in *Caprimulgus* ; first and second quills equal and longest ; *tail* moderately long and nearly square ; *tarsi* stout, and clothed anteriorly for their whole length ; *toes* short, thick and fleshy ; outer ones equal, and united to the middle one by a membrane for more than half their length ; nail of the middle toe strongly pectinated on the inner side.

This genus, so far as is yet known, comprises but two species, both of which are natives of and confined to Australia. They differ considerably in their habits from the true *Caprimulgi*. Their wing-powers being enormous, they pass through the air with great rapidity, and while hawking for insects during the twilight of the early dawn and evening, they make the most abrupt and sudden turns in order to secure their prey. Like the typical *Caprimulgi*, they rest on the ground during the day. In every instance in which the site employed for incubation has been discovered, a single egg only has been found ; it is deposited on the bare ground, and differs from those of the other *Caprimulgi* in being much more round in form, and of a dull olive-green spotted with jet black.

The members of this genus are very nearly allied to the *Lyncorni*, a group of birds inhabiting the Indian Islands.

46. *Eurostopodus albogularis* Vol. II. Pl. 7.

47. *Eurostopodus guttatus* Vol. II. Pl. 8

Fichtel's Goatsucker, Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. vii. p. 345.