

## ÆGIALITIS MONACHUS.

Head, forepart of the neck, and a band across the upper part of the back sooty black; back of the neck, and all the under surface white; back, shoulders, and tertials greyish brown; centre of the wing and the basal portion of the internal webs of the primaries and secondaries white, the rest black; two middle tail-feathers black; the three next on each side white at the base and tip, and black in the centre; the remaining feathers wholly white; bill orange at the base, and black at the tip; legs orange.

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

*Charadrius Monachus*, Geoff. in Mus. Paris.—Wagl. Syst. Av., sp. 15.

— *cucullatus*, Vieill., Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., p. 136.

*Ægialitis Monachus*, Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, Part II.

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SINCE the publication of the second part of my Synopsis above-quoted, I have received examples of this species direct from Van Diemen's Land, and I am consequently enabled to state that this is one of the localities it inhabits, with which fact I was previously unacquainted. The specimens I have recently obtained exhibit to our notice a peculiarity in their plumage, from which I am led to believe that, contrary to what obtains in the other members of the group, the black colouring of the head is merely a seasonal character, which is doubtless only assumed during summer. This peculiarity I have illustrated by figuring a bird with the black head, and another fully adult in which the head exhibits only a slight indication of the black marking. A somewhat similar circumstance may be observed in its British analogue, the Common Ring Plover, which assumes a richer style of colouring during the summer and breeding-season; but this character is never so nearly obliterated as in the present species.

Habitat. Van Diemen's Land.