## LEPTORHYNCHUS PECTORALIS, Dubus.

Body white; breast crossed by a broad band of chestnut bordered anteriorly with black; wings and centre of the abdomen black; bill black; legs reddish yellow.

Total length,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches; bill,  $2\frac{7}{8}$ ; wing, 8; tail 3; tarsi to the first articulation,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; bare space above,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ .

Leptorhynchus pectoralis, Dubus, in Mem. Roy. Acad. Bruss. Aug., 1835, Pl. XLV. Guerin. Mag. Zool. 1836, Pl. XLV.

Himantopus palmatus, Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, Part II.

Since the publication of the Second Part of my Synopsis of the Birds of Australia, in which I gave a description and part figure of this species under the name of *Himantopus palmatus*, I have discovered that the bird had been previously characterized as *Leptorhynchus pectoralis* by the Chevalier B. Dubus, in a memoir presented to the Royal Academy of Brussels on the 17th of January, 1835. I have therefore taken the earliest opportunity of correcting my own error, being anxious in every case to give the priority to any appropriate name already published. During the time that has elapsed since the appearance of my description of this bird, I have had an opportunity, through the kindness of Mr. Leadbeater, of examining two other examples, one of each sex, upon a more minute inspection of which, and after carefully comparing them with specimens of both *Himantopus* and *Avocetta*, I am led to coincide with M. Dubus in the propriety of separating it into a distinct genus: my name will therefore sink into a synonym.

M. Dubus is of opinion that this form is more nearly allied in its affinities to Avocetta than to Himantopus, to which opinion I am also disposed to agree; the bill is altogether more slender than in Himantopus, is slightly curved upward, depressed through its whole length, and has the groove of the nostrils less extensive; the wings are not so long, and the secondaries are tipped with white; the tarsi and toes are much shorter and the latter palmated. The principal characters in fact by which this form differs from Avocetta is in the total absence of the hind toe and in the straightened form of the bill.

The adult female has the band on the chest greyish brown instead of chestnut, and is destitute of the black mark on the centre of the abdomen; from the appearance of one of the specimens above alluded to, in which the pectoral band was apparently disappearing, I think it probable that this mark is merely seasonal, or only exists during the breeding season.

Habitat. The South coast of New Holland.

The Plate represents the bird of the natural size.