

Eudypetes schlegeli, Finsch. = *Eu. diadematus*, indiv. No. 3, Schleg., in Mus. P.B.

General coloration, size, and form of bill as in *chrysolopha*, but front margin, slate-black; a broad frontal band, bright orange, with narrow black shafts. This orange band runs to above the eye, and here the hair, like black shafts, forms a small tuft of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inches in length, which runs backwards; round the eye, and the temporal region, pale brownish-grey; lores, and a narrow rim round the mandible, pale sulphur-yellow; cheeks, sides of the head and neck, and the whole under surface, white.

Culmen.	Rictus.	Height of Bill.	Flipper.
2-inch, 7 lines.	3-inch, 3 lines.	10 lines.	7-inches.

ART, XXV.—*An account of the Maori manner of preserving the Skin of the*

Huia, *Heteralocha auctirostris*, Buller. By J. D. ENYS.

[Read before the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, 3rd June, 1875.]

WHILE spending the latter part of the last winter (1874) on the East Coast of the Wellington Province I had the opportunity of observing the way the Maoris preserved the skin of the *Huia* (*Heteralocha auctirostris*). The party I saw most of were two brothers, whom I met at the edge of a large forest, on their return from their expedition. Their equipments were few, consisting of a small blanket, a gun, and a slight stock of provisions. So provided, they started off into the bush, and calling the birds by an imitation of its note, which is well expressed by the native name *Huia*, they bring them within range of their guns. Formerly they killed them with small sticks. The bird is skinned, leaving both mandibles as well as the wattle attached, but both wings and legs removed. The skin is then stretched by three small sticks, placed one above the other, and stuck on a forked stick inserted in the ground in front of a fire, the inside of the skin is turned towards the fire so as to dry the skin ready for packing; the tail is carefully bent back behind so as not to dirty the white tips of the feathers. When dried, the under side of the quills of the tail feathers are cut away carefully, so as to render the feathers more flexible.

A piece of Totara bark (*Podocarpus totara*), about two feet long and five feet wide, is prepared and bent double in the middle, the ends being rounded off. The dried skins with the tail feathers bent back over the back as dried, are placed between these thin pieces of bark, and are then ready for being sent away to the Waikato and Taupo country, where they are most valuable articles of exchange.

The slaughter that came under my notice last year was so large, that I fear, when the country is more opened up the poor Huia will become extinct, a fate I shall much deplore, as any one who has once seen this most graceful bird alive can only regret that he has not oftener a chance of doing so.

I am glad to say, one inducement to its destruction is wanting, as it is reported by all who have cooked it, to be a tough morsel. I ascertained that over 600 skins were procured last year, from the back ranges of the East Coast of the Wellington Province, by the natives. I may mention, that, part of the ranges had been *tapu* by the natives, for the last seven years, so as to protect the Huia from being killed off.

I exhibit a specimen, obtained with some difficulty, from one of the brothers mentioned in the beginning of this paper.

ART. XXVI.—*Notes on the Introduction and Acclimatization of the Salmon.*

By JAMES STEWART, C.E.

[Read before the Auckland Institute, 6th December, 1875.]

THE recent importation into Auckland of healthy Salmon Ova, and successful distribution of them by Mr. Firth in the upland tributaries of the Waikato and Thames, has drawn renewed attention to the subject of the introduction of this splendid fish into New Zealand. Happening to be on my way to Waikato on the morning on which Mr. Firth left with his charge, I can bear testimony to the completeness of his arrangements; and the care and forethought brought to bear on the most minute details of the enterprise, which, favoured by very unseasonable weather, but, on that account, all the more favourable to success, enabled him to distribute the living ova in waters over a wide area of country, and, so far as possible, with the present venture, secure many chances of success.

The subject and discussions naturally arising from it on that journey, awakened, in my mind, memories of almost forgotten scenes and experiences in pisciculture in the old country. At intervals, during my absence of a week in the Waikato, I was enabled to recall my early observations, and study the matter in the light of present requirements, and as a small contribution to the cause, I have now the honour to lay before this Institute, and my fellow-colonists these notes, in the hope that the work will not be allowed to rest with the present venture, but will be prosecuted anew, and with the certainty of the same success attending it as has been achieved in the introduction of the Trout.