

## AUSTRALASIA.

and lore greenish; the legs pale brown; the upper parts of the body are blueish ash-colour; the crown of the head black, with the feathers lengthened; the front, and fore part of the neck, as far as the middle, white; the quills and tail blueish black; the breast, belly, and thighs bright cinnamon-colour; the feathers on the breast being lengthened in an elegant manner; the back-feathers are also lengthened into very slender plumes, which fall over part of the tail.

A variety of the *Little Bittern*, or *Ardea minuta*, occurs in New Holland, differing in but few particulars from the European bird.

A distinct species, called by Latham, the *Spotted Heron*, has also been observed in the same regions: its size is that of the Little Bittern; the general colour of the plumage brown, spotted on the back and wings with white; under parts of the body dusky white; bill and legs dull green.

The *New Holland Emen*, or Cassowary, is a bird of great magnitude, standing seven feet high: its colour is brownish grey, paler beneath; the head is destitute of the horny crest so conspicuous in the common or black Cassowary, and the fore parts of the neck are less covered with feathers than the other parts; the skin, which is of a blueish colour, appearing through them; the wings are extremely short, covered with loose-webbed feathers, and perfectly useless for flight; the bill short, flattened, somewhat pointed, and considerably allied to that of an Ostrich; the legs very strong, black, and strongly scaled; the toes, three in number, all pointing forwards, and furnished with stout claws. The feathers on this bird consist each of two greatly lengthened plumes, springing from a common shaft.

A variety of the *Purple Gallinule* (*Fulica Porphyrio*, Lin.), occurs in Notasia: its colour deep black, with the throat, fore part of the neck, and breast, outer part of the wing-coverts, and the quills, deep blue; bill, front, legs, and bare parts above the knees, red; knees, and joints of the toes black; vent white.

The *White Gallinule* is of the size of a hen, with the whole plumage pure white; bill and legs red. Sometimes the shoulders and back are blue; like the former, it is perhaps a variety of the common or purple Gallinule.

The Snipe, Plover, and Sandpiper tribes in New Holland afford some remarkable birds: of these the *Wattled Sandpiper* is an instance; it measures about a foot and a half in length; the back and wings are brown;