

of so many nests containing the egg of a Cuckoo and an unusually small clutch of the foster-parent.—ARTHUR P. INGLE, R.A.O.U. Yea, 2/1/12.

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**Acclimatization of Torres Strait or Nutmeg Pigeons.**—When at Herberton, N.Q., in January, I visited my friend Mr. Newell. He is an old bird-lover. He showed me a small flock of fourteen Torres Strait or Nutmeg Pigeons (*Myristicivora spilorrhoa*)—glorious birds, with their white plumage and black pinions flashing in the sunshine. These birds came from Low-wood Island, off Port Douglas, when quite young, and were put in a cage. Three or four got out and one was lost, the rest caught and put back. Then a dog got at the cage and more got out, but returned to be fed. One by one the rest were let out, and one was drowned, but the rest are still here—for the past three years. On 28th January I saw one on its nest, some 8 feet from the ground. What a primitive raft for the single egg! The bird sat quite quietly, and I was but a few feet away. These birds remain here all the year round, and their home is 3,000 feet above sea-level. The migratory instinct is evidently gone. They know Mr. Newell well, and it is a very pretty sight to see these handsome Pigeons come down to him to be fed. They will take food from his hand.

I was at the Museum to-day, and an *employé* tells me he has for years past had Torres Strait Pigeons at his home at Kangaroo Point—quite domesticated, he says. I inquired as to breeding, but he said they had not bred. I saw them breeding, egg and young, 3,000 feet up, and so I fancy there may be some mistake about their not breeding in Brisbane. As to any hybridizing, the answer was in the negative, and that corresponds to what Mr. Newell told me and I saw. A beautiful Torres bird was in love with a Columba bird of local origin. I saw them repeatedly together away from home. Mr. Newell reports this has happened, and an egg or eggs laid, but with no result. These very handsome birds should be a great attraction to any park or gardens, and evidently are easily kept.—F. HAMILTON KENNY. Sherwood, Brisbane, 6/3/12.

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### Forgotten Feathers.

SHAW, "ZOOLOGY OF NEW HOLLAND, 1794."

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.R.S.E.

IN 1793 was begun a book dealing with some of the "Zoology and Botany of New Holland," as it was then called. The botanical specimens therein figured were all sent to England by John White, the Surgeon-General to the colony.

Although the title-page and preface to the "Botany," both of which are dated December, 1793, appeared in part i., I cannot find that that part was issued before 1794. The title-page of the

"Zoology" is dated 1794, and there is no preface or dedication, thus showing that it was considered to be one book, and it was so bound in one of my copies.

The wrappers in parts i. and ii. are small, and pasted on larger covers. No. 1 reads:—

"To be continued occasionally/of/Zoology and Botany/of/New Holland/and/the Isles adjacent/Published by J. Sowerby and Co., No. 2 Mead Place/Lambeth; may be had at No. 42 Paternoster Row,/and of the town and country booksellers."

The wrapper on part ii. is almost the same, but it has—"In future a number of this will be published every two months."

Part i. contains title page, half-title page, dedication, preface, and plates i.-iv., with their letter-press of botany, and, I think, *Psittacus eximius* and *Didelphis pygmæa* (original description), with their letter-press of zoology.

Part ii. contains plates v.-viii., with their letter-press of botany, and, I think, *Columba antarctica* (original description) and *Chaetodon constrictus* (original description) (?), with their letter-press of zoology.

After this the "Zoology" and "Botany" were issued separately. Two more parts of each came out and contained each four plates. The botanical plates were issued as now numbered, and are sixteen in number, and probably most of them received their scientific names for the first time. Part iv. of "Botany" is dated 1794, but three of the plates are dated 1st January, 1795. Plates vii. and viii. are dated 1st October, 1793; plates xiv., xv., xvi. are dated 1st January, 1795.

In the "Zoology" the plates were not issued in their right order. Part i., I think, contained plates i. and ii.

Part ii. contained plates v. and vi.

Plates Nos. ix., *Turdus punctatus* (original description); x., *Colubor porphyriacus* (original description); xi., *Didelphis sciurea* (original description); xii., *Didelphis macroura*, were issued together, and are dated September and November, 1794.

Plates Nos. iii., *Psittacus terrestris*; iv., *Merops phrygius* (original description); vii., *Testudo longicollis* (original description) (?); viii., *Canser serratus* (original description) (?), were issued together, and have "1794" on them. The wrapper to this part reads:—

"Zoology/of/New Holland/by/George Shaw, M.D., F.R.S.,/ &c., &c./ The figures by/James Sowerby, F.L.S./ This volume contains/The Ground Parrot. The Embroidered Merops. The Long-necked Tortoise. The Serrated Lobster./ In binding this work, the order of the pages only is to be attended to in/Descriptions, which are immediately to follow the corresponding Plates/. London/Printed by J. Davis/published by J. Sowerby, No. 2 Mead Place, Lambeth, to be had/at No. 13 Broadway, Black-Friars, and of the Town/and Country Booksellers/M.DCC.XCIV."

It will thus be seen that after the "Zoology" and "Botany" were issued separately, they were published at a different place than formerly, although still by the same publisher. In the "Zoology" there are 5 plates of birds, 3 of mammals, 1 fish, 1 tortoise, 1

crustacean, 1 reptile, and out of the 12 plates, I think 9 are original descriptions. What is now plate i. has No. 2 in the bottom corner, and some printing erased; plate iv. has No. 1 in the bottom corner, and also has something erased; these are the only two plates without a Latin name. Probably the author changed his idea before actually publishing. Plate ii., the first mammal plate, has "1" in the top right-hand corner; all the others have their correct numbers.

In the foregoing I can speak with certainty only of the "Botany"; for the "Zoology" I have gone on external evidence, as I only have one wrapper stating what that part contained.

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A FRENCH EXPLORER'S AUSTRALIAN BIRD LIST.

BY ERNEST SCOTT, MELBOURNE.

CAPTAIN Nicholas Baudin was the commander of the French expedition despatched to Australia by Napoleon in 1800. He died at Mauritius before the return of his ships to Europe, and the history of his explorations was afterwards written by the naturalist, François Péron. Hitherto it was not known that Baudin himself wrote any account of the voyage, but researches made recently at the Archives Nationales, Paris, at the instance of an Australian student, have brought to light an interesting long letter, sent from Port Jackson, in November, 1802, to the Minister of Marine. In this document Baudin gives an account of his explorations in southern Tasmania, and includes a few notes on flora and fauna. His observations on birds may not be very striking, but, as they record the species seen by an early navigator, they have a certain value for ornithologists. The birds mentioned in the passage translated below from the manuscript copy were seen by Baudin at Bruni Island, Frederick Henry Bay, Maria Island, and Schouten Island, which were the principal anchorages of the British ships while engaged upon their explorations in Tasmanian waters. He wrote:—

"The species of sea-birds, without being remarkably varied, could, nevertheless, become a resource of an establishment at the outset. The Black Swan, the Pelican, the Albatross, the Cormorant, the Duck, the Teal, the Yellow-headed Booby ('le fou blanc à tête jaune'), the 'Goueland gris' (?), the Pied Oystercatcher ('la Pie de Mer à pieds et bec rouge'), the Sandpiper ('la Bécassine'), and the Seagulls are not to be overlooked. The Swan, however, appeared to us to deserve preference over all the others, independently of its size. Its flesh is delicate and agreeable when preserved in brine. But it is difficult to approach. The most favourable time for the pursuit of this bird is the moulting season, when it can only fly with difficulty, and when it can be captured while swimming, notwithstanding that it can acquit itself well even then. The Duck and the Teal are, after the Swan, the birds whose flesh make the best eating. The Cormorant and the

Albatross, although less good, are not for that reason to be disdained. The Oyster-catcher, the 'Goueland,' the Booby, and the Gulls are scarcely worth catching. I do not doubt that in the mating and eggng seasons other species than those of which I mention frequent these shores, where they appear to enjoy perfect security. The land-birds that we have met with in the islands of the channel (*i.e.*, D'Entrecasteaux Channel) and upon the mainland are not very numerous, and they were so shy and difficult to approach that I was led to believe that they are often chased by the aborigines. The commonest species are the Parrots, blue-headed and yellow-breasted, and another kind with red wings and green plumage; the latter is much smaller than the former, which is as large as a dove, and very beautiful. The Eagle, the Hawk, the Crow, the Magpie, the Cuckoo ('le Coucou'), 'la Pigrieche,' 'la Grieve,' the Blackbird ('le Merle'), the Partridge ('la Perdrix'), and the Quail are only rarely met with, and it was only with difficulty that we were able to obtain specimens of these species. We have also met with several kinds of small birds which were unknown to me, of which the plumage is nicely shaded ('bien nuancé'), and the song agreeable. All those which we have procured are included in the collection of Citizen Maugé (one of the scientific staff), and I hope that they will augment the number already collected in the National Museum. The beautiful Golden-winged Pigeon, of which Anderson speaks, was so rare here that we obtained only one specimen."

It must be remembered that Baudin was not a trained zoologist. Several of his words are puzzling. What Tasmanian bird did he call the Cuckoo, for instance, and what the Blackbird? What are the "Pigrieche," the "Grieve," and the "Goueland gris?" It should be noted that the French ships were in Tasmanian waters during January and February, 1802.

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## Bird Day.

THE first celebration of Bird Day has been successfully carried out in New South Wales. The second celebration in South Australia and the third in Victoria have assisted in firmly establishing the present keen interest that is being displayed by Australians in the rich and varied avifauna of this great island-continent.

In New South Wales the Gould League of Bird Lovers has been established, and an appropriate certificate has been issued. (See Plate XXVII.—one-third original size.)

In South Australia new bird clubs are constantly being added to the list. Creditable work is being done in connection with the education of pupils and teachers by the publication of special Bird Day articles. A special Bird Day number of *The School Paper* was also issued. Mr. A. G. Edquist keeps the matter constantly before the children by his attractively-written columns in *The Children's Hour*.