

there are two subspecies in Cape York is not found in the north of Australia I fail to understand.

My conclusion is that Sonnerat's bird probably came from Cape York, and that the scientific names based on Sonnerat belong to the smaller northern form, whilst the larger southern race was first described by Latham as the Great Brown Kingfisher, from specimens brought back by Sir Joseph Banks. On turning to Latham's account ("General Synopsis of Birds," vol. 2, p. 609) we find confirmation of this. His description of the Great Brown Kingfisher begins: "This is the largest species yet known, and is in length eighteen inches." After describing two individuals supposed to be the male and female, he concludes: "Both the above-described are in the collection of Sir Joseph Banks, and are said to have come from New Guinea; from whence Sonnerat had the bird figured by him. The only difference seems to be that the under mandible in his was orange, and the bird only sixteen inches in length."

Mathews recognises 5 subspecies of *D. gigas*, 3 from North Queensland, one from South Queensland and New South Wales, and one from Victoria and South Australia. If the foregoing views are adopted the name *Dacelo gigas gigas* (Boddaert) will have to be transferred to one of the North Queensland forms, whilst the New South Wales forms will become *Dacelo gigas gigantea* (Latham). If Herrman's name *Alcedo novaeguineae* is earlier than Boddaert's, as Mathews states ("Austral Avian Record," vol. 4, p. 112), then the name for the northern race will be *Dacelo novaeguineae novaeguineae* (Herrman), and for the southern one *Dacelo novaeguineae gigantea* (Latham). This change of name, whilst distinctly unfortunate, will at least serve to remind us that Malays from the neighbourhood of New Guinea probably made the acquaintance of the Laughing Jackass before the first white men had landed in eastern Australia.

The central figure of plate 53 is the illustration of the White Fulica, from White's *Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales*, plate 27. It was referred to on pages 214-215 of our last issue. The "crooked spine"—the spur referred to—is plainly seen on the right wing.

**Goshawk Preys on Kestrel.**—A few weeks ago I saw an Australian Goshawk (*Astur fasciatus*) swoop down into a creek-bed carrying a large bird in its talons. I quickly got to the spot and flushed the Hawk, when it released its prey. I picked up the bird, and found it to be a full-sized specimen of the Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchröides*), which, though quite dead, was bleeding still. I am not aware of this having been previously recorded, and it struck me as strange that this Kestrel should be picked out for a meal when the bush was teeming with smaller birds of various descriptions more easily seized.—J. N. MCGILP, King's Park, Adelaide.