

Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*). Feeding extensively on the small fruits of a salt bush in district 44.

Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*). Increased in numbers in district 4 on 9/9/25. Not numerous in district 44 on 16/8/25.

Diamond Firetail (*Zonaeginthus guttatus*). A few years ago very rare in district 81, but now becoming common.

Olive-backed Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*). Pair found nesting in district 2 on 18/9/25.

Spotted Bower-bird (*Chlamydera maculata*). Began to repair and to redecorate old bowers during the latter half of August.

Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*). Noted feeding on mice in district 46.

Remarks on *Gracula melanocephala*, Latham.

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BY the kindness of the trustees of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, I am able to reproduce a copy of the type of *Gracula melanocephala* Latham, Index Ornith. Suppl., p. xxviii, 1801. (after May 30th). I think it will be generally agreed that the picture represents the familiar Noisy Miner or Soldier bird of New South Wales. The only defect in the original painting is the absence of the yellow patch behind the eye. Considering the time when this painting was made (over a century and a quarter ago) it is a splendid one and leaves no doubt as to what bird it is.

Latham says : " I am indebted to General Davies for the knowledge of this species, having been brought from Port Jackson by Governor King."

Gracula melanocephala was described by Latham in English as :—Length nine inches ; bill yellow, a trifle bent, and stouter at the base than is usual in the Thrush genus, though not greatly dissimilar ; the forehead is white, but the rest of the head black ; the throat, whole of the neck, and all beneath are white, but inclining to bluish in some parts ; the back, and all the wing coverts, without exception, are fine pale blue grey, with a trace of white across the lower part of the last ; the quills are dusky, edged with pale rust : tail three inches in length bluish ash colour, some of the outer feathers inclining to pale grey near the ends ; legs longish, scaly, of a pale yellow oker colour ; claws dusky and stout. Inhabits New South Wales.

On this description the name was founded :—*Gracula griseo-cærulescens subtus alba, capite nigro, fronte fasciaque tectricum albis ; long. poll. q. :—rostrum et pedis flavi.*

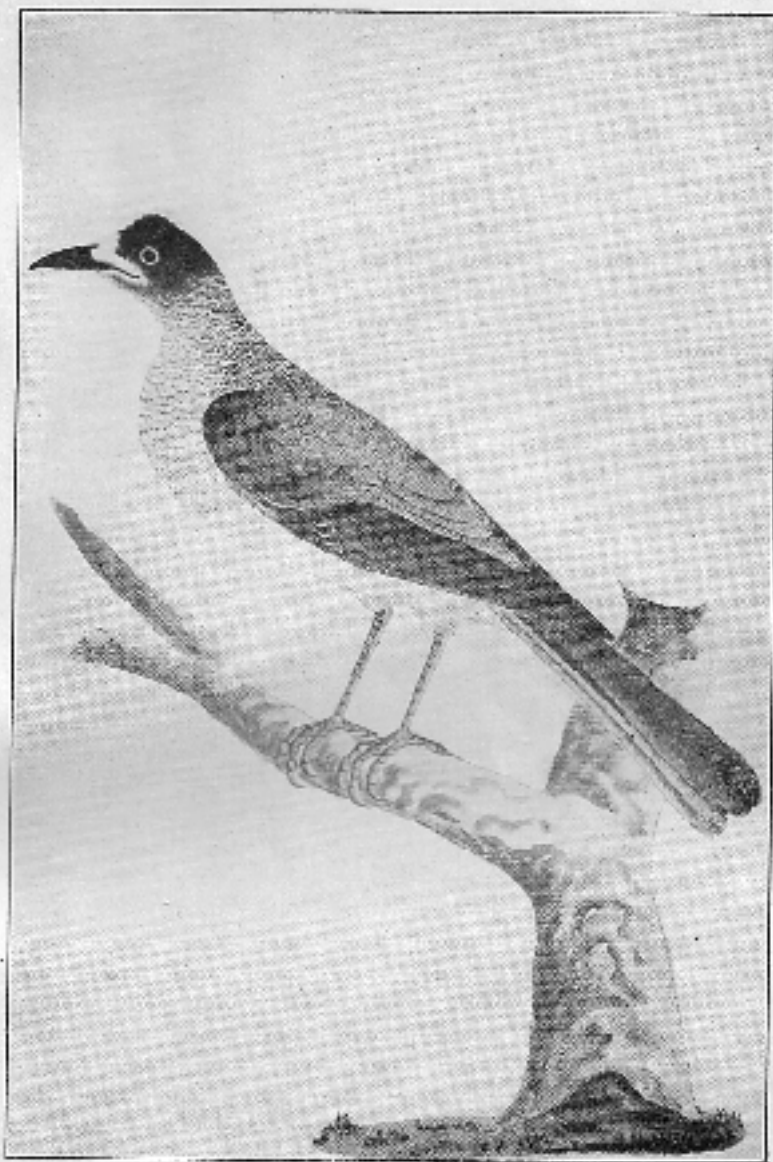


PHOTO. FROM WATLING DRAWING NO. 61; TYPE OF *Gracula melanocepala*,
LAHORE.