



AUSTRALIAN LORIKEETS

Trichoglossus colsi Le Souef

Upper left, *T. rubritorquis*, Vigors & Horsfield; right, *T. moluccanus*, Gmelin.

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The Coles Lorikeet

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Much interest was excited by the skin of a Lorikeet exhibited at a meeting of bird lovers in Sydney recently, and, as the bird was so little known, the opinion was expressed that publicity in the columns of *The Emu* might bring to light more information concerning so interesting a form. The bird, *Trichoglossus colesi* D. Le Souef, is illustrated in conjunction with its near relatives, the Rainbow Lorikeet (*T. moluccanus*) and the Red-collared Lorikeet (*T. rubitorquis*). (See coloured plate opposite.)

The specimen was obtained during the visit of the R.A.O.U. to the Capricorn Group, on the return to Gladstone, Queensland, on 8th November, 1910, by the writer, who, in company with Mr. Harry Burrell, left the Government trawler *Endeavour* for several hours to search the bush a little to the north of the town (following a hint by the local barber that some beautiful parrots were in the vicinity). Many eucalypts were in flower, and by the aid of glasses it was noted that Lorikeets were feeding. A bird was singled out, and shot, and it was at once seen to be so unusual that the flock was pursued to enable a further specimen to be obtained. Before this could be accomplished, the whistle of the *Endeavour* demanded our immediate return to the vessel. Lorikeets were plentiful, and as we retraced our steps every tree was hurriedly searched for the missing flock, easily distinguished by the smaller size of the birds and their duller colour. Many times we sighted them, but they had heard the gun, and were shy. Time was short, so with the desire to obtain a specimen for comparison, another shot was fired, and a brilliant specimen of the Rainbow or Blue-bellied Lorikeet (*T. moluccanus*) was obtained. These birds were exhibited on the trawler, and after skins had been made of them, and measurements and facts carefully noted, they were entrusted to the late Mr. Dudley Le Souef, who took them to Melbourne for identification, with the result that he pronounced

one a new species, and described it as such in *The Emu*, Vol. 10, page 204, 1910, under the name *Trichoglossus colesi*.

The outstanding features of the bird are—taken by comparison with *T. moluccanus* obtained on the same day—length 2 inches shorter, wing $\frac{3}{4}$ inch shorter, tail $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches shorter, eyes light yellow (red in *T. moluccanus*), bill reddish brown, lighter at tip (red in *T. moluccanus*), banded upper surface (*T. moluccanus* green), “spatulate tips to lower secondaries, and marked with blue tips” as well as the tips “of some of the feathers on the shoulders upper tail coverts mostly tipped with blue; the four centre tail feathers green throughout, and the four feathers on either side of them have their outer web green, and with a portion of their inner web bright yellow and edged to the tip; these eight feathers are also spatulate flesh pink, not dark red as in *T. moluccanus*, breast bone $\frac{1}{2}$ inch shorter than in that bird.”

With the close protection afforded our beautiful birds, it may readily be admitted that in cases where close observation is necessary, much time must elapse before new species are thoroughly established; in the meantime, it behoves all bird-lovers to concentrate on the information available and endeavour to publish any new facts which may come to their knowledge.

Type Locality of the Corella.—The type specimen of the Corella, a Long-billed Cockatoo, was collected by Robert Brown at the You Yangs in 1802. The specific name *Kakatoe tenuirostris* is due to Kuhl (1820). The data ticket corresponds with Brown's visit to Arthur's Seat and Port Phillip Bay. It now seems certain that this bird was not merely a casual visitor to that part, but was a permanent resident. According to Horace Wheelwright, who camped for a few years on the Mornington Peninsula in the fifties, these birds were quite plentiful in the forest in those times. He generally found them in pairs, and common at all times of the year. It is difficult to understand the reason for the total disappearance of these birds from southern Victoria.—D. DICKISON, Hon. Secretary R.A.O.U.

Galahs near Melbourne.—Whilst out between Pascoe Vale and Glenroy on Wednesday, August 29th, 1928, I noticed four Galahs or Rose-breasted Cockatoos (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) come from a northerly direction and alight on the ground in the sheltered valley, where they remained some time. They had evidently been blown southward by the persistent northerly gale which was blowing at the time. Next day only one remained; it flew around for some time, but was not seen after that date.—T. GREAVES, Bentleigh, Vic.