



The Brown Bell-Magpie (*Strepera intermedia*).

The Emu

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

"Birds of a Feather."

VOL. XXVIII.]

1st APRIL, 1929.

[PART 4

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This species of Bell-Magpie was first noticed by John Gould, who considered it a form of the Clinking Bell-Magpie of Tasmania (*S. arguta*). In 1877 it was separated by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe as *S. intermedia*, his type coming from Port Lincoln in South Australia. On the 9th October, 1886, a specimen was secured by the writer near Cape Spencer, on Yorke Peninsula, in South Australia. The eggs were taken at the same time, but no description was published until the January issue of *The Emu*, 1926, 40 years later. The example taken in 1886 was shown and compared with skins of the other species of *Strepera*, at one of the early meetings of the South Australian Ornithological Association, and was then recognised as a distinct species. Later, when additional specimens were obtained on Eyre Peninsula, at the R.A.O.U. "Camp-out," this species was described by me under the name of *S. fusca*, which name is a synonym of Sharpe's name, *S. intermedia*.

Range.—The eastern limit of its range seems to be the foot of Yorke Peninsula, which separates the Gulf of St. Vincent from Spencer Gulf. The type locality is the southern portion of Eyre Peninsula. Mr. J. Sutton, in the *South Australian Ornithologist* of April, 1926, records it in considerable numbers, in the neighbourhood of Kimba in the Gawler Ranges, several nests being found and skins taken. It has also been recorded from as far inland as the Everard Range. Information as to the western extension of its range is still very obscure; it probably occurs in the south-eastern portion of Western Australia, and has there

been misidentified as the Leaden Bell-Magpie (*S. plumbea* Gould), a form of the Grey Bell-Magpie (*S. versicolor*).

Comparisons.—As has already been mentioned *S. intermedia* is more closely allied to the Clinking Bell-Magpie of Tasmania than to any of the other species; both have a well-marked white speculum in the wings, the upper side of both birds is black, but in the Tasmanian bird it is a greyish-black, each feather black-edged, while in the Brown Bell-Magpie the upper side is brownish-black, none of the feathers black-edged. The tail of both is white-tipped, except the two central feathers, but in *S. arguta* the white is almost absent in the outer web of some of the tail feathers. Besides minor differences, *S. intermedia* differs from *S. versicolor* and *S. plumbea*, in having the general colour black, whereas in the two latter it is grey. The egg of the Brown Bell-Magpie (*S. intermedia*) is without the least vestige of gloss, whereas the egg of the Grey Bell-Magpie or Currawong (*S. versicolor*) has a distinct gloss.

Emus on the Myall River.—Some 25 years ago, when travelling on the Myall River, I saw an Emu on the extensive moorland on the right bank of that stream, and three or four miles south of the Broadwater. On no other subsequent trip did I see a bird, and believed that the bird was extinct in that district till I met Mr. S. Payne, of Bullahdelah, who informed me that in the latter part of 1926 or the early part of 1927 he had seen a full-grown Emu on the lower bank of the Myall. This induced our late member, Mr. John Hopson, to take a trip to the Myall last winter (1927) to ascertain if the bird still survived there. We failed to see a single bird, but Mr. Hopson found a fresh track that was unmistakable. The spot where we found it was between Dark Point, on the sea coast, and the Myall River. Later Mr. A. Harman, of Lochinvar, who was then camped near Dark Point, informed me he had seen the live birds, and Mr. E. J. Anstey, when recently camped at Mungo Brush, in the lower lake, informed me he saw six on the beach. Information from other quarters makes it certain that the Emu still survives in the Port Stephens district. It probably came from the western plains through the Cassilis Geocol, the great pathway through which the *Diprotodon* probably also reached the coastal district.—N. J. ENRIGHT, R.A.O.U., West Maitland.