

which is now a concavo-convex plate with very low central keel (fig. 21). Its large forked manubrium is no doubt primitive, as certainly is the form of the symphysis of the mandible.

Concerning the parrakeets I can say little. The short mandibular symphysis and practical loss of forking of the manubrium appear to be specialized characters. The lory, *Trichoglossus moluccana*, the only species of lory of which I have seen a skull, has a mandible with the tip projecting and the posterior end gradually bevelled off, features which recall *Nestor*. Garrod, however, on the character of the tongue, separated *Nestor* from association with *Trichoglossus* (*P.Z.S.*, 1872, 789). Surely the tongue is far more likely to be modified by use than is the mandible.

A Variant of the Little Pied Cormorant at Safety Bay, W.A.—On March 13, 1945, when I was rowing between Shag Island and a rock to the shoreward side, my wife drew my attention to a red-breasted cormorant on the rock. On my first glimpse of the bird, I took it to be a Mountain Duck, so vivid was the breast and so sharp was the line between the chestnut and white on the neck. It was in company with four or five Little Pied Cormorants in ordinary plumage, i.e. white-breasted and black-backed. The chief points noticeable from a distance of not more than twenty yards were (1) a distinct brown appearance of the upper parts compared with the black of the other birds, (2) the lower portion of the neck and the breast, well back towards the abdomen, was a uniform chestnut similar to a Mountain Duck, which in the other birds was white, (3) the throat and upper neck appeared darker than the white of the other birds and the bill appeared more red. It was the only bird with this peculiar coloration among some twenty or thirty cormorants on surrounding rocks. In Leach's *An Australian Bird Book* he gives the colour of the upper breast as chestnut but says nothing about brown upper parts. Mathews makes no mention of a chestnut breast but states that immature birds have brown upper parts. On looking through skins in the W.A. Museum with Mr. Glauert and Dr. Serventy, there were found no skins like the bird described, but some skins did show a few feathers here and there of a rufous tinge. This did not seem to have any bearing on the maturity of the bird. I have a rookery on my farm where Little Pied Cormorants breed every year but I have never noticed a bird of this chestnut-breasted phase.—ANGUS ROBINSON, Coolup, W.A., 5/5/45.