



FLEURIEU PENINSULA ROSELLA.  
*Platycercus elegans fleurieuensis.*

# The Emu

Official Organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

"Birds of a feather."

VOL. XVII.]

1ST JANUARY, 1918.

[PART 3.

## Fleurieu Peninsula Rosella

(*Platycercus elegans fleurieuensis*).

(Edwin Ashby, *Emu*, vol. xvii., part 1, July, 1917.)

By EDWIN ASHBY, M.B.O.U., R.A.O.U.

THE habitat of this bird seems to be confined to the Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia, extending from The Meadows to Cape Jervis. While on several occasions during the past twenty years I have noted exceptionally highly coloured Rosellas in the neighbourhood of The Meadows, I had no opportunity to collect specimens. Last Easter, on the occasion of a hurried motor trip to Cape Jervis, Mr. Frank E. Parsons, R.A.O.U., and myself saw between Yankalilla and Second Valley a large number of this highly-coloured form, but when nearing Second Valley they became very numerous; every clump of gum-trees appeared to be frequented by a flock of them, and each flock had its quota of highly-coloured birds. The brilliancy of the red on the under side and rump marked them out as very distinct from the normal form of *Platycercus elegans adelaidensis*. Except for the fact that the tone of red is so distinct from typical *Platycercus elegans*, one would have placed them with that species, but the character of the red coloration links them up more closely with the Adelaide Rosella. While many of these birds were frequenting the red gums, in both the evening and morning considerable numbers flocked to the box-thorn hedges in the township of Second Valley, feeding on the red berries, which were produced in great profusion.

The notes and habits of this Parrot are, as far as I could judge, identical with *P. adelaidensis*. The birds could be heard early in the morning calling to one another with shrill whistling notes, rapidly repeated three or four times.