

it to be only a phase of the sub-species, *P. assimilis*. On a previous occasion (*Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales*, vol. xxiv., p. 472, 1889) I proved *P. assimilis* to have only the third quill edged with white (scarlet speculum), and the speculum may be yellow, just as in the 'third and fourth quill' phase. If this is really so, and I see no reason to the contrary, there is nothing to distinguish it from *P. affinis*. Proof will doubtless be forthcoming in support of my view, as specimens come in from time to time, even if the delay is as long as in the finding of the specimen under review. I shall then place *P. affinis* along with *P. assimilis*."

Altogether, Mr. Hall's article, especially regarding descriptions of fledglings and immature birds, is a valuable contribution to ornithological research.

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DR. J. W. B. GUNNING, Director of the Pretoria Museum and Zoological Gardens, sends lists of recent additions of mammals and birds to the gardens. Among the latter the following Australian species appear:—Winking Owl (*Ninox connivens*), Chestnut-eared Finches (*Taniopygia castanotis*), Spotted-sided Finches (*Steganopleura guttata*), Long-tailed Finches (*Poephila acuticauda*), "Parson" Finches (*P. cincta*), Gouldian Finches (*P. gouldiae*), Banded Finch (*Stictoptera bichenovii*), Blue Mountain Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ*), Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), Magpie Geese (*Anseranas semipalmata*), Laughing Jackasses (*Dacelo gigas*), two Emus (presented by the late Right Hon. C. J. Rhodes), besides six Australian "Moonies, whatever these may be. Dr. Gunning would be glad of any exchanges with or donations to the Pretoria Gardens.

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COCKATOOS AS "RESISTANTS."—A resident in the Northern Territory, whose homestead is adjacent to a section of the overland telegraph line between the Katherine and Daly Waters stations, explains in a recent letter the most frequent causes of delay in the transmission of messages as follows:—"At present (1st May) there is a frequent but brief loss of current taking place, which has caused much annoyance and baffled the authorities, because it occurs mostly in the morning and evening. Operators sent from the two stations to investigate have discovered that Cockatoos (Galahs), which frequent a pool of water near the spot where the leakage is located, perch on the top telegraph wire, and, Parrot-like, use their beaks upon the second, but only for a moment; with a shrill cry they take flight. In the meantime, however, the current has escaped, and if a message were going through its continuity was broken."—*The Argus*, 4/6/02.