

the so-called sub-species *G. t. terra-reginae*. If this is the only illustration we are to have of one of our most popular and best-known birds, I do not think Mr. Mathews is to be complimented upon his selection of a type or upon the excellence of the drawing; the plate is unworthy of a great work.

## The White Goshawk (*Astur novae-hollandiae*)

By HENRY L. WHITE, C.F.A.O.U., "Belltrees," Scone,  
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About a month ago it was my good fortune to secure a beautiful live White Goshawk (a female apparently from its size), which now has a large flight aviary to itself. The bird was secured in this locality by a trapper, who disabled it while it was gorging on a rabbit recently secured; it recovered completely, was kept by the man for five months, and then passed on to me. I had previously seen four specimens only in the Upper Hunter district. I believe the bird is rare in Southern Australia, though more numerous on Cape York Peninsula.

I feed the Hawk on fresh bones and birds, Parrots chiefly, which it appears particularly to enjoy. Its manner of eating is queer: after alighting on the ground, it puffs out its feathers like a broody hen, while trailing its wings on the ground. When the food is grasped, the wings are extended so as to form props on either side, the meat being torn off in small pieces by the beak. Unfortunately, I have been unable to obtain a snap-shot. Gould states the color of the irides is fiery red; A. J. North, carmine; Mathews says most frequently bright yellow. I'll add another shade, *viz.*, dark brown, with no sign of red or yellow. Quite possibly my bird is not mature, but it must be considerably more than six months old. I shall note any changes that occur.

The only note it utters is a low, but distinct, "Queet, queet," usually given three, but occasionally more times, in quick succession.

The bird recognises a stranger at once, and becomes very restless, even to dashing into the wire netting.

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**Colour of the Raven's Eye.**—Wishing to satisfy myself as to changes in colour of the eye of the Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), I secured a pair of young from the nest in August, 1920, keeping them under close observation in a large aviary. No alteration from the juvenile brown was noticed until towards the end of 1921, when the irides changed to yellowish-brown; in January, 1922, to dull golden; thence to dirty white, and in June to the adult china white, at which stage they have since remained.—H. L. WHITE, M.B.O.U., "Belltrees," N.S.W.