



MASKED GANNETS, ADULT AND YOUNG.

Photos. by E. F. Pollock. (See Note, page 140.)

Birds of Cobark, N.S.W.*

BY W. J. ENRIGHT AND JOHN HOPSON.

FOUR years ago we found ourselves in a beech (*Fagus Moorei*) forest on Barrington Tops, at an altitude of 4,000 feet. In the forest a stream welled from the ground, and then slid down a declivity for about 2,000 feet. We were looking at the Dilgery valley. The stream was the head of the Dilgery River, which, so far, is unsurveyed, and we were told that part of the valley where it flows no white man has yet traversed.

The task from the tableland appeared to us to be an easy one, and in August, 1925, we travelled by car to Rawdon Vale, 34 miles west of Gloucester, thence by sulky to Cobark homestead, 2 miles further. Between Dungog and the junction of Rawdon Vale-Gloucester roads we saw numerous flocks of the Red-Browed Finch (*Aegintha temporalis*) and Spotted-sided Finch (*Zonaeginthus guttatus*). Along the valley of the Gloucester River we saw several flocks of Rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*) and of the Crimson Rosella (*P. elegans*). Consorting with a flock of the latter was a solitary King-Parrot (*Aprosmictus scapularis*). Though this bird was at one time very numerous in the district, this was the only specimen we saw on the trip.

Our effort to traverse the Dilgery was a failure. A waterfall 30 feet high, flanked by steep cliffs, blocks progress two miles above Cobark-Dilgery junctions. The valley above, however, may be reached by climbing the range which flanks it, and again descending. Beyond that again is another waterfall eighty feet high, and we were compelled to abandon the attempt for the time. At the junction Mr. J. P. Geale, who is a friend of the birds, has his home, and has lived there seventeen years. Near his house a Lyre-Bird (*Menura novae-hollandiae*) was sitting on a solitary egg, and not far away was a mound of the Brush-Turkey (*Alectura lathamii*).

When we discovered it was useless to attempt the passage of the Dilgery we spent some three days on Cobark Station. This property consists of open forest with flats along the river which were once clad with brush. It fronts the Barrington River, and is traversed by the Arundale River, which is formed by the union of the Dilgery, to which it also has frontage, and the Cobark, all of which are permanent streams with a considerable flow of water. The altitude is from about 450 to 700 feet above sea level.

Following is a list of birds we noted in the three days, on an area of about 3000 acres:—Spur-winged Plover, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Whistling Eagle, Brown Hawk, Nankeen Kestrel, Rainbow Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet, Crimson Rosella, Rosella, White Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, King Parrot, Laughing Kookaburra, Fan-tailed

*Cobark (not to be confused with Cobar) is near Barrington Tops, not far from Newcastle and in the rich locality where the 1926 Camp-out of the R.A.O.U. is to be held.—EDITOR.

Cuckoo, Superb Lyre-Bird, Welcome Swallow, Tree-Martin, Jacky Winter, Flame-breasted Robin, Scarlet-breasted Robin, Grey Fantail, Rufous Fantail, Black-and-White Fantail, Whip-Bird, Song-Lark, Yellow-tailed Thornbill, Yellow-throated Scrub-Wren, White-browed Scrub-Wren, Blue Wren, Magpie-Lark, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Black-backed Magpie, Shrike-Tit, Yellow Robin, White-throated Tree-Creeper, Spotted Pardalote, Spine-bill, Noisy Miner, Red Wattle-Bird, Spotted-sided Finch, Red-browed Finch, Olive-backed Oriole, Satin Bower-Bird, Pied Bell-Magpie, Crow.

Many of the birds were noted feeding in the small flower-garden in front of the homestead, and others in the little orchard adjoining the house. The run had been judiciously cleared in the first instance, but that left insufficient food for the opossums, which destroyed many of the remaining trees. Many birds must on that account have been driven away.

Stray Feathers.

New Bird for Australia.—At a meeting of the R.A.O.U., held at the National Museum, Melbourne, on August 4th, Mr. A. J. Campbell, on behalf of Mr. H. L. White, Belltrees, Scone, N.S. Wales, exhibited a new sea-bird for Australia. It was washed up dead on Cottesloe beach, Western Australia, on June 6th after a storm, and was forwarded by Mr. F. L. Whitcock. The bird is known as the Kerguelen Petrel, or Fulmar (*Pterodroma brevirostris*). It is a neat bird in general dark drab-grey plumage with a slate-grey tinge, and is about the size of a Mutton-Bird. Expeditions to the south have met the species in sub-antarctic regions, and it is known to breed on Kerguelen Island, where Mr. Robert Gall found it in burrows, in Greenland Harbour, January 25th, 1898. The same storm washed up several bodies of Prions.

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Aboriginal Bird-names.—Further to the list of native names of birds given in my paper on the Pallinup Estuary in the last number of *The Emu*, the names of a few more species had also been ascertained but as they were not observed at the estuary at the time of my visit, were not recorded. As they may be of interest I give them here :—Mallee Hen (*Leipoa ocellata*), Gnow (the *gn* represents a sound which may be likened to that produced when starting to pronounce the word "new"); Bronze-wing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera*), Gnampion; Western Swamp-hen (*Porphyrio bellus*), Moolar; Southern Stone-Plover (*Burhinus magnirostris*), Weeloo; Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*), Coolie; Barn-Owl (*Tyto*), Minnar; Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus naso*), Carrar; Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), Cumbine; Miner (*Myzantha*), Puer; Crow (*Corvus coronoides*), Warrdong.—D. L. SERVENTY, East Cannington, W.A. (2/8/26).