

that met his gaze, recorded the value of logs being hauled from the forests, described the timber-waggons and sketched their wheels, and even listed the names of 40 bullocks that constituted two particular teams—indeed, he tabulated the names in order, so that we know that Rowdy was paired with Nipper, Nigger with Dagger, Frosty with Star, and so on!

Transferring to the Wallis Lake area on November 6, Jackson spent about three weeks (often in the company of H. Gogerley) in searches for nests of the Ground Parrot. So far from finding a nest, however, he did not see a bird; nor did he gain any subsidiary notes of interest other than a record of the Striped Honeyeater (chiefly an inland species) nesting near the ocean at Taree. Thus, early in December, he returned to Scone much less elated than he had been on returning from Queensland in the previous year.

There is, perhaps, matter for regret in the fact that Jackson's sojourn at Wootton and Wallis Lake, the last of his excursions on behalf of H. L. White, proved to be both trying and unprofitable. Nevertheless, the relevant diary is an interesting document and I recommend it to the attention of historians of the future.

Some Explorers and Birds

By A. H. CHISHOLM, Sydney, N.S.W.

A somewhat obscure ornithological document, and one that ought to be more widely known, is a lengthy paper entitled 'List of Birds collected by the Calvert Exploring Expedition in Western Australia', published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* for 1898 (pp. 125-92), and afterwards reprinted in booklet form.

The article is distinctly representative. In the first place, the sponsor of the expedition, Albert S. Calvert, was an Englishman, a wealthy traveller and writer who had himself made several dashes into the interior, and who decided to send this further expedition into the field in 1896. The leader of the party, L. A. Wells, was a South Australian; the ornithologist, G. A. Keartland (who had been with the Horn expedition of 1894), was a Victorian; and G. L. Jones, one of two men who were lost on the journey, was a nephew of the Scottish-born explorer of the Australian interior, David Lindsay. Moreover, the writer of the article under notice, A. J. North, was a Victorian who lived in New South Wales, and, as indicated above, he published his paper in Adelaide, although the official report of the expedition was published in Perth. It may be mentioned, too, that an Afghan member of the party, Bejah Dervish, who had rendered highly meritorious service, lived on until recently—he died in May 1957.

Because the experiences of the explorers were very trying, Keartland was forced to abandon some 300 specimens of

birds. However, he retained 167, representing 59 species, and as he also kept many field-notes he and North were able to produce an informative paper.

It would be interesting, perhaps, to traverse this article in some detail (it contains, for example, a record of the sight of the Night Parrot in flight and the seeing of feathers of the same species in various nests of other birds), but at the moment I desire only to refer to what North has to say regarding *Lophophaps*, the pretty little plumed pigeons, one species of which was recorded by Keartland.

After restricting the genus to two species (Gould's *L. leucogaster* is discarded), North mentions that Gould, in quoting from John Gilbert's journal kept during the Leichhardt's party's journey from Brisbane to Port Essington, said that Gilbert obtained only one specimen of *L. plumifera*, which was taken on March 6, 1845. Years later, North adds, he was told by Dr. E. P. Ramsay that a specimen of this bird was presented to the Australian Museum, Sydney, by John Murphy (who had been a member of the Leichhardt party), and it was to be assumed that this was "the historic specimen referred to by Gilbert in his journal". A similar statement was subsequently (1913) made by North in his *Nests and Eggs* (vol. 4, p. 143), it being added there that the specimen had been mounted.

Actually, Gould misled posterity in this matter. As I pointed out in 'Birds of the Gilbert Diary' (*Emu*, Oct. 1944, p. 145), he not only gave the wrong date for the taking of Gilbert's first specimen (March 6, instead of June 6), but he failed to notice that in entries in the diary for June 9-10 Gilbert recorded the obtaining of numbers of additional specimens and also gave details regarding the bird's habits. Nevertheless, it is possible that only one specimen of the Pigeon was brought back—Leichhardt had to abandon a good deal of material when in trouble after Gilbert's death—and so, after all, there may be some justification for regarding that museum trophy as 'historic'.

North does not mention the year in which John Murphy presented the specimen to the Museum. Ramsay was only three years old when the Leichhardt party returned to Sydney, so that if it was given to him personally the implication is that Murphy retained it for a lengthy period. However, the bird may have been handed in well before Ramsay joined the Museum staff. At the present day the specimen cannot be found.

Murphy, who was a mere lad of 15 years when he started out with Leichhardt, died in Sydney in 1870, at the age of 40. It is rather surprising that he did not become attached to ornithology, for he was continually under Gilbert's 'wing' during the great journey of 1844-5, and he had manifested some talent in the sketching of birds.