

CALYPTORHYNCHUS BAUDINI (White-tailed Cockatoo).—Very few.

PLATYCERCUS ICTEROTIS (Yellow-cheeked Parrakeet).—See article.

BARNARDIUS SEMITORQUATUS (Yellow-collared Parrakeet).—Numerous in places.

PSEPHOTUS MULTICOLOR (Many-coloured Parrakeet).—See article. Not numerous.

PHAPS CHALCOPERA (Bronzewing Pigeon).—Rare. One bird only seen.

PHAPS ELEGANS (Brush Bronze-wing Pigeon).—Rare. One pair seen. One bird shot.

TURNIX VARIA (Painted Quail).—One bird seen.

EUPODOTIS AUSTRALIS (Bustard).—One bird shot. Reported to be very common on the plains.

BURHINUS GRALLARIUS (Stone-Plover).—Heard at night frequently.

ZONIFER TRICOLOR (Black-breasted Plover).—A member of our party reported he saw one in field near the Mission Station.

ÆGIALITIS RUFICAPILLA (Red-capped Dottrel).—Many seen on shores of Lake Hinds.

ÆGIALITIS CUCULLATUS (Hooded Dottrel).—One of a pair shot on the margin of a brackish lake.

CLADORHYNCHUS LEUCOCEPHALUS, Vieill. (Banded Stilt).—See article.

PODICIPES POLIOCEPHALUS (Hoary-headed Grebe).—Several were seen on a dam about 6 miles beyond the Mission Station.

CASARCA TADORNOIDES (Mountain-Duck).—One pair seen in the Lake country.

NETTION GIBBERIFRONS (Grey Teal).—I shot a pair of what I take to be these birds. Saw many others at the dam mentioned.

NYROCA AUSTRALIS (White-eyed Duck).—Saw many at the dam mentioned.

DROMÆUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ, Latham (Emu).—Saw fresh tracks of these birds in many places in the Lake country.

---

## Australian Birds in the Zoological Gardens, London, 1903-1904.

BY ED. DEGEN, PARSON'S GREEN, LONDON.

A SERIES of visits recently paid to the world-famous collections at the menageries in Regent's Park discloses two noteworthy features to the ornithologist with a predilection for the Australian avifauna.

Only 60, or about one-twelfth of the total of the Australian birds classified in the "Vernacular List," are clustered round the positive pole, leaving no fewer than 700 to be disposed of on the negative extremity of the circuit, many of which (up to the present, at least) are either lost in space altogether or may have to be looked for, as a highly desirable addition, in their native haunts. It may readily be inferred from this that a



really splendid opportunity offers itself to an Australian visitor or a returning colonist to supplement the list and fill in existing gaps. This defect could be remedied with such species without inconvenience to an enthusiastic traveller, and without any particular risk to live stock which do not depend on insect food exclusively. Of these there are many so sparsely represented that whole genera, even families, are totally absent.

For the housing of animals, including the birds, extensive alterations are at present in progress, or to be taken in hand shortly, when a replenishing of the aviaries would probably receive the attention of the authorities.

Several large avairies have been built or are in course of construction, in which Australian birds might find a suitable home. One which has been erected on the north side of the Gardens is a spacious structure, destined to accommodate certain Parrots during the summer months. Whether its position (on the banks of the Canal) is a well-chosen one it is perhaps too early to decide.

The "birds of prey" are sparsely represented by a handsome specimen (which has lived in the Gardens for some years) of the Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaëtus audax*). Hawks, Buzzards, and Falcons, as well as Ospreys are unrepresented.

Of the Owls, the only member of the family was the Winking Owl (*Ninox connivens*), which died during the time I visited the gardens. The Lesser Masked Owl (*Strix delicatula*) also died.

Amongst perching birds in the Crows' Aviary may be seen the Raven (*Corone australis*) and two specimens of the Grey Jumper (*Struthidea cinerea*).

Birds of Paradise (sub-family *Epimachinæ*, as well as *Paradiseinæ*) and the Australian representatives of the family *Oriolidæ* are unrepresented.

The numerous Wood-Shrikes are also wanting. These being principally insect and grub-eating genera, one is not surprised to find them absent, as well as all the Flycatchers and Warblers.

Amongst the *Timeliidæ*, or Babbling Thrushes, we have the Satin or Silky Bower-Bird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*) represented by two specimens only, and luckily a Regent-Bird (*Sericulus melinus*).

Babblers and Titmice are absent, but among the *Laniidæ*, or Crow-Shrikes, both a male and a female of the Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) and a splendid male bird, as well as a young male, of the White-backed Magpie (*G. leuconota*), delight the ear of the visitor.

All the genera of the sub-family of *Pachycephalinæ*, as well as the whole of the representatives of the families *Certhiidæ* and *Nectariniidæ*, or Sun-Birds, are absent, and among the long list of *Meliphagidæ* the Warty-faced Honey-eater (*Meliphaga phrygia*) is a solitary bird, which has been placed in the Parrot-house.

The numerous species of Wood-Swallows have one representative—namely, the Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*).

Of Weavers there are several, all placed in the Parrot-house or the Insect-house, such as the

Chestnut-eared Finch (*Tæniopygia castanotis*),

Banded, or, as here called, Bichenov Finch (*Stictoptera bichenovii*),

Chestnut-breasted Finch (*Munia castaneithorax*),

Modest, or, according to bird vernacular nomenclature, Plum-head Finch (*Aidemosyne modesta*),



Black-throated (here Banded) Grass-Finch (*Poephila cincta*), and The Scarlet-headed Finch—truly called here the Beautiful Finch (*Poephila mirabilis*)—not to forget what ought to have preceded the last—e.g.,

The Gouldian Finch (*Poephila gouldiæ*).

The only Lyre-Bird (a female specimen of *Menura victoriæ*) died a few months ago.

Pittas might do very well. Other Polynesian species are to be seen.

Amongst Picarian birds the Brown Kingfisher or Laughing Jackass (*Dacelo gigas*) is represented by three healthy-looking specimens in the Eastern Aviary.

The Australian section of the Parrots contributes largely to the present exhibition in the house especially devoted to this noisy community. Amongst the *Loriidæ* one finds:—

Blue-bellied (here Swainson) Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ*) and the scarce Red-collared (Red-banded) Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus rubritorquis*) from N.W.A., not less resplendent in colours.

Of the family of the *Cacatuidæ* there are the rare Gang-Gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galeatum*), White (here called the Great Sulphur-crested) Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*), Pink Cockatoo (*C. leadbeateri*), Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*C. gymnopsis*), Blood-stained Cockatoo (*C. sanguinea*), Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*C. roseicapilla*), Long-billed Cockatoo (*Licmetis nasica*), and in the Western Avairy the Cockatoo-Parrakeet, or Cockatiel (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*), male and female.

Among true Parrots the sub-family *Palæornithinæ* is represented by the following:—

Green-Leek Parrakeet (*Polytelis barrabandi*).

Red-winged Lory (*Ptistes erythropterus*), and

King Lory (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*).

The true Parrakeets, or *Platycercinæ*, are in force, and comprise the following:—

Crimson or Pennant Parrakeet (*Platycercus elegans*).

The always magnificent Masters Parrakeet (*P. masterianus*).\*

Adelaide Rosella (*P. adalaidæ*).

Yellow Parrakeet (*P. flaveolus*).

Pale-headed Parrakeet (*P. pallidiceps*).

The rare Smutty or the Brown Parrakeet (*P. browni*).

Rosella, originally named Rose-hill Parrakeet (*P. eximius*).

Yellow-cheeked Parrakeet (*P. icterotis*).

Yellow-banded Parrakeet (*Barnardius zonarius*).

Mallee Parrakeet (*B. barnardi*); a hybrid between the Golden-shouldered Parrakeet (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*) and the Many-coloured Parrakeet (*Psephotus multicolor*).

The Red-backed (really Blood-rumped) Parrakeet (*Psephotus hæmatonotus*); and finally the

Betcherrygah, or Warbling Grass-Parrakeet (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).

The *Peristeridæ*, or Pigeon family, have three species to represent them:—

Brush Bronze-wing (*Phaps elegans*).

Naked-eyed Partridge-Pigeon (*Geophaps smithi*).

Plumed Pigeon or Ground-Pigeon (*Lophophaps plumifera*).

The interesting Megapodes are represented by the Brush-Turkey (*Catheturus (Talegallus) lathamii*), which seems to do very well. These birds have attempted and nearly succeeded in breeding. They were reared in the Zoological Gardens, Melbourne.

\* Said to be a variety of *P. elegans*. Vide *Emu*, vol. iii., p. 197.—EDS.



Hemipodes are missing.

Of the *Fulicariæ* there is only the Pectoral Rail (*Hypotaenidia philippinensis*) to be noted.

The Native Companion, or Australian Crane, and Bustard are also absent.

Plovers are represented only by the Spur-winged Plover or so-called Wattled Pewit (*Lobivanellus lobatus*), and a

Lesser Golden Plover (*Charadrius fulvus*), which was caught at sea.

Amongst sea-birds there are only to be noticed the

Silver or Jamieson Gull (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*) and the

Skua (*Megalestris antarctica*).

The families *Pelicanidæ*, *Plotidæ*, *Phalacrocoracidæ*, *Fregatidæ*, *Phaëthontidæ*, and *Sulidæ*, all composing the order of *Steganopodes*, with the exception of the Pelican (*P. conspicillatus*), and the orders of the *Pygopodes* and *Impennes*, are unrepresented.

In the order of *Chenomorphæ* and family of *Anatidæ* we have amongst *Cygninæ* the Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*), which from time to time breeds in the Gardens.

*Anseranatinæ* represented by the Pied Goose (*Anseranas semipalmata*) and Cape Barren Goose (*Cereopsis novæ-hollandiæ*), male and female.

Among the Ducks are only the Shieldrake or Mountain-Duck (*Casarca tadornoides*) and Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*).

The list of "Australian natives" closes with the Struthionide bird whose name has aptly lent itself as title to the official organ of the Ornithologists' Union, namely the Emu (*Dromæus novæ-hollandiæ*). Another specimen, at one time suspected to be its "Spotted" congener (*Dromæus irroratus*), failed to prove its identity as a separate species, and the Cassowary (*Casuarius australis*) is no longer in the world, so far as the Zoo is concerned.

## Bird Notes from Wilmot, Tasmania.

BY (MISS) J. A. FLETCHER.

### PART III.

DURING the season just closing the Tree-Swallows or Martins (*Petrochelidon nigricans*) have been very numerous. In previous years I have only seen an occasional pair, but since last October they have been present in flocks of eight to twenty. They nested in the hollow limbs of the dead trees close to the township. On rainy days they would settle in the yard or would amuse themselves by flying round the house several times; then all would suddenly settle on the ground; up they would rise, then round the house and down again. It was very amusing to watch them, and they will be greatly missed when they leave us next month (April).

In our dark, damp gullies the Large-billed Ground-Thrushes (*Geocichla macrorhyncha*) are to be found, but as civilisation is being extended these birds are withdrawing into the at present untouched scrubs. Last winter (June) I came upon a venerable myrtle tree and discovered three nests of this Ground-Thrush in various parts of the tree. I regret being unable to revisit



Degen, Edward. 1904. "Australian Birds in the Zoological Gardens, London, 1903–1904." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 4(1), 11–14. <https://doi.org/10.1071/mu904011>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/38293>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1071/mu904011>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/379131>

**Holding Institution**

American Museum of Natural History Library

**Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: NOT\_IN\_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.