

Forgotten Feathers.

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

PETROPHASSA RUFIPENNIS (ROCK-PIGEON).—The type of this bird was got in Arnhem Land, about the sources of the South Alligator River, in 1894 or 1895.

On 11th November, 1845, Leichhardt, about the same locality, saw this bird. He says:—"A new species of Rock-Pigeon (*Petrophassa*, Gould) with a dark brown body, primaries light brown without any white, and with the tail feathers rather worn, lived in pairs and small flocks like *Geophaps*, and flew out of the shade of overhanging rocks, or from the moist wells which the natives had dug in the bed of the creek, around which they clustered like flies round a drop of syrup."*

Thus 50 years went by after the bird had been first seen before it was described.

This bird also has the metallic coppery-violet spot, almost concealed, on some of the upper wing coverts and one of the inner secondaries, the same as *P. albipennis*. In the original description of *P. rufipennis* it was stated that these spots were not there. The bird in my collection is a male.

From Magazines, &c.

VISIT TO AUSTRALIA.—In *The Avicultural Magazine* (March and May numbers) Mr. David Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., continues (*vide Emu*, viii., p. 223) his pleasantly written field observations. With Mr. A. J. Campbell and Messrs. C. C. and T. A. Brittlebank, Mr. Seth-Smith visited the famous Werribee Gorge, Victoria, where a goodly number of birds were identified and field observations made. A photograph is given of a scene in the Gorge, also of a typical gum-tree (eucalypt) in flower, the feasting ground of Lorikeets. Another account describes Ferntree Gully, in the Dandenongs, and its feathered inhabitants; also a visit to Miss Helen Bowie's aviaries, and the birds seen in the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Of all the birds Mr. Seth-Smith saw in Australia, he "liked none so well as the glorious little Blue Wren."

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FLIGHT OF AUSTRALIAN MUTTON-BIRDS IN THE NORTH PACIFIC.—"On the 25th of August, for the only time during my stay at Pacific Beach, Washington, the fog lifted sufficiently about an hour before dark to enable me to see for a long distance off shore. To my surprise and extreme gratification

* "Journal of an Overland Expedition in Australia," by Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt (1847), p. 476.



Mathews, Gregory Macalister. 1909. "Petrophassa rufipennis (Rock-Pigeon)."
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