

The Emu

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"Birds of a feather."

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[PART 1.

The Pallid Pardalote (*Pardalotus pallidus*)

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In deference to the special desire of the Editor, Dr. Leach, I write this note on the accompanying coloured plate.

It is difficult in our present state of knowledge to say which are species and which are sub-species. If *P. pallidus* be not a species, it at least appears to be a distinct variety or sub-species of *P. rubricatus* of Eastern Australia, the two forms being separated by a great space of arid interior and the "natural fence" of the conjoined Great Sandy, Gibson's and Victoria Deserts. The habitat of the Pallid Pardalote or Pallid Diamond-Bird appears to be North-West Australia proper, from the region of the De Grey River in the north, to the Gascoyne River in the south.

In addition to my description of, and remarks on, the Pallid Pardalote in *The Emu*, vol. viii., p. 142, Mr. Tom Carter, M.B.O.U., gives the following more recent note in *The Ibis*, 1921, p. 70:—"Pale Red-browed Pardalotes were, as usual, fairly plentiful about the beds of the Gascoyne and Minilya rivers, and occasionally seen far from water-courses. On 10th September, 1916, I shot a female on the latter river. On 18th September I noted a pair of these birds feeding young, which were being reared inside a perpendicular iron pipe about two inches in diameter and seven feet in height. This was set upright in the ground just outside a large shearing shed, where shearing was in full progress. The nest was apparently some distance down the pipe."

The specimens herewith figured are from a series of five in the "H. L. White Collection," National Museum, Melbourne (through the courtesy of the Curator, Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S.), all of which consistently differ from typical *P. rubricatus*, and from Gould's figure of same in *Birds of Australia*, vol. ii., pl. 36.



Male

THE PALLID PARDALOTE
(*Pardalotus pallidus*)

Female



Campbell, Archibald James. 1921. "The Pallid Pardalote (*Pardalotus pallidus*)."
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