

isolated patch of a *Grevillea*, which I take to be *G. repens*. In the next gully to the west, Long Gully, was found some years ago the beautiful *Clematis aristata*, var. *Dennisii*, named and described by Mr. W. R. Guilfoyle in the *Naturalist* of December, 1898 (vol. xv., p. 97). This apparently was its only habitat, and though it survives in cultivation at the Botanic Gardens, it has, I believe, been lost from this district from repeated burnings and clearings. From these two instances of isolation, complete or partial, it seems to me that on these botanically unexplored slopes other unique specimens might be found, and that it might be worth while on future expeditions to give them a trial in preference to those more gorgeous spots which persistently attract. We duly reached the hill, situated in section 90 of the parish of Tarrawarra North, and after searching perhaps acres of the plant, which is quite prostrate, we were fortunate enough to find one in bloom—a month later than I found it in full bloom in 1907. Spurred on by our good luck we eventually succeeded in getting several more specimens, some of which I hope will retain their freshness sufficiently for exhibition at to-night's meeting. As we returned, late specimens of *Comesperma ericinum* were added to our list, and later on *Gompholobium Huegelii* and *Persoonia juniperina* were met with in bloom. Several lizards were seen as we passed along, and a Black Snake was killed, while another was too quick for us. The day was another delightful one for rambling, and we got back to Healesville in ample time to pack up for the evening train, my companions telling me it was a most enjoyable outing, and not without its results. As for myself, being a country member, and unable to attend the Club meetings, it was quite an event to have some kindred spirits with whom to roam the bush.—REGINALD KELLY.

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#### NOTE ON SOME LIVING EXAMPLES OF *PSEPHOTUS DISSIMILIS*.

By ALFRED J. NORTH, C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist to the Australian Museum, Sydney.\*

WHILE examining a number of live birds in Sydney, in the possession of Mr. Fritz Kruger, who had recently brought them from the Northern Territory of South Australia, my attention was immediately attracted to a cage of parrakeets of a species I had not seen before. Although differing in several respects from Professor Collet's description of *Psephotus dissimilis*, I had little hesitation in referring them to that species, particularly as they were obtained in the same locality—Pine Creek, 200 miles south-east of Port Darwin. There were 16 birds altogether—five fully-

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plumaged adult males, the remainder females and young males—and an adult pair was secured on behalf of the Trustees of the Australian Museum. While, however, Mr. Kruger was removing them from one cage to another, opportunity was taken of critically examining them and taking the measurements of the adult male.

From Professor Collet's description of the adult male of *Psephotus dissimilis*, the living bird differs in the following respects:—The feathers from the sides of the base of the lower mandible, extending in a line immediately below the eye on to the sides of the nape and upper portion of the hind-neck, are black, and gradually pass into a dark greyish-brown on the upper portion of the back and the scapulars; the lesser, median, and greater wing coverts are entirely golden-yellow; the under tail coverts are pale scarlet with whitish margins; bill faint bluish-horn colour, cere slightly darker; legs and feet rich fleshy-grey brown; iris black, eyelid dark greyish-black. Total length, 10.5 inches; wing 4.9, tail 6, bill 0.5.

Professor Collet describes the adult male of *Psephotus dissimilis* as "forehead, lores, and crown dark chestnut," and Dr. E. Hartert,† of *P. dissimilis* (?), "crown of the male is dark brown, not at all chestnut," and again Professor Collet states that the greater wing coverts of *P. dissimilis* are black, and the lower (under) tail coverts orange.

The female agrees fairly well with Professor Collet's description, except that the cheeks are pale blue, not grey, as are also the ear coverts, and that the under tail coverts are paler than in the male.

Young males resemble the adult females, but the feathers of the cheeks and sides of the throat and neck are pale verditer blue, and some of the feathers at the base of the bill, and on the forehead, are black. Although these birds are fairly tame, one young male was so quarrelsome, attempting to bite any others that came near it, that eventually it was removed from the cage.

What I regard as the chief point of difference is that not only are the lores, forehead, and crown of the head of the adult male *black*, but that this colour extends down the anterior portion of the cheeks to the sides of the base of the lower mandible. Viewed in front, the bird appears to wear a black mask or cowl. Should it prove to be distinct, I propose to distinguish it under the name of *Psephotus cucullatus*, and vernacularly as the Black-hooded Parrakeet. Owing to the larger golden-yellow wing-patch, and greater extent of black on the head, it is a more showy and attractive species than its ally, the Golden-winged Parrakeet, *Psephotus chrysopterygius*, which is also found in the Northern Territory of South Australia. Sydney, 6th February, 1909.

† "Nov. Zool.," vol. xii., p. 214 (1905).



1909. "Note on some living examples of *Psephotus dissimilis*." *The Victorian Naturalist* 25, 175–176.

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