

hind margin contain near anal angle two black spots: anal spot small, indistinctly slightly silvered; outer spot very conspicuous, rich black bordered with brick red, and silvered on outer border; marginal line fine black. Cilia smoky grey. Allied to *L. pavana*, *L. plato*, &c. by character of under markings, and to *L. biocellata*, *L. Felderi*, &c. by general texture and habit. Townsville to Brisbane.

ON A BONE OF AN EXTINCT EAGLE;

BY C. W. DE VIS.

—o—

IN a small collection of fossil bones from King's Creek lately purchased for the National Museum there are three pertaining to birds—a fibula, a humerus derived from one of the Rails, and the distal half of a second humerus, the subject of the present notice.

It is not too much to say that each of the larger groups of birds, for example that of the Perching Birds proper, has in this portion of the skeleton a structure which is on the whole characteristic of the group, though single characters of similar import are rare. The relative protrusion of the epicondylar tuberosities, the developement of the ectepicondylar border, the size, shape and direction of the condyles themselves, more especially the radial, the extent and depth of the probrachialis insertion on the palmar aspect, the depth of the concavity anconad of the ulnar condyle, such are the significant features which in the gross enable one to identify a recent or refer a fossil bone to its family with moderate confidence.

Under this instruction it is not difficult to point out the group to which the present fossil belongs—it is evidently from a diurnal Bird of Prey.

In its family, Falconidæ, the entepicondylar tuberosity takes the greater share in the expansion of this arthral end of the bone;

it is tumid laterad, raised into a narrow sharp ridge palmad and by its protrusion anconad deepens the concavity over the ulnar condyle—the radial condyle is but moderately long, in direction it is characteristically oblique. The ectepicondylar tuberosity is elongate, extending proximad upon the radial border: it is incrassated but gives off no distinct process—the probrachialis insertion is wide, shallow as a rule, especially on its distal limits, and traverses the whole palmar surface.

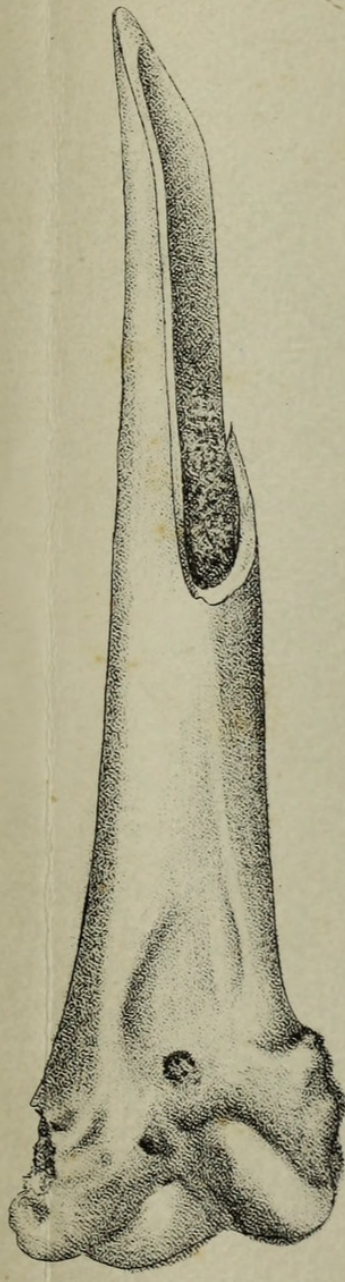
The part in *Uroaetus*, the Wedge-tailed Eagle of the present day, is distinguished by the separation of the articular from the non-articular surface of the ulnar condyle, by an oblique ridge passing from the most distal point of its ental aspect across its convexity in the direction of the proximal end of the radial condyle.

Together with the general characters of the Falconidæ the fossil possesses this special feature and is therefore entitled to a place provisionally in the genus *Uroaetus*.

Though not wider in its expansion than in *U. audax*, in both fore and aft and transverse diameter of the shaft it is of greater dimensions: the radial condyle is more oblique and being rounded off instead of pointed at its proximal end is apparently shorter. The ulnar condyle is smaller having a shorter anconopalmar diameter. The intercondylar groove is deeper, so that the connecting link between the condyles is much slenderer. The ectepicondylar tuberosity is shorter and more tumid.

The sum of these differences is sufficiently great to warrant the recognition of a species and, to distinguish it, the writer proposes the term *brachialis* in allusion to the strength of the forearm.

This fossil is the first relic of an arboreal bird of flight hitherto recognised amongst the remains of the extinct birds of Queensland; while still fresh it was within the jaws of *Thylacoleo*, the familiar perforations made by the conical teeth of that bone-eater are, in corresponding positions, present on both aspects of the distal expansion.



UROAETUS BRACHIALIS

C. Edmonds del



De Vis, Charles Walter. 1889. "On a Bone of an Extinct Eagle." *The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 6(4), 161–162.

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