

of so many nests containing the egg of a Cuckoo and an unusually small clutch of the foster-parent.—ARTHUR P. INGLE, R.A.O.U. Yea, 2/1/12.

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Acclimatization of Torres Strait or Nutmeg Pigeons.—When at Herberton, N.Q., in January, I visited my friend Mr. Newell. He is an old bird-lover. He showed me a small flock of fourteen Torres Strait or Nutmeg Pigeons (*Myristicivora spilorrhoea*)—glorious birds, with their white plumage and black pinions flashing in the sunshine. These birds came from Low-wood Island, off Port Douglas, when quite young, and were put in a cage. Three or four got out and one was lost, the rest caught and put back. Then a dog got at the cage and more got out, but returned to be fed. One by one the rest were let out, and one was drowned, but the rest are still here—for the past three years. On 28th January I saw one on its nest, some 8 feet from the ground. What a primitive raft for the single egg! The bird sat quite quietly, and I was but a few feet away. These birds remain here all the year round, and their home is 3,000 feet above sea-level. The migratory instinct is evidently gone. They know Mr. Newell well, and it is a very pretty sight to see these handsome Pigeons come down to him to be fed. They will take food from his hand.

I was at the Museum to-day, and an *employé* tells me he has for years past had Torres Strait Pigeons at his home at Kangaroo Point—quite domesticated, he says. I inquired as to breeding, but he said they had not bred. I saw them breeding, egg and young, 3,000 feet up, and so I fancy there may be some mistake about their not breeding in Brisbane. As to any hybridizing, the answer was in the negative, and that corresponds to what Mr. Newell told me and I saw. A beautiful Torres bird was in love with a Columba bird of local origin. I saw them repeatedly together away from home. Mr. Newell reports this has happened, and an egg or eggs laid, but with no result. These very handsome birds should be a great attraction to any park or gardens, and evidently are easily kept.—F. HAMILTON KENNY. Sherwood, Brisbane, 6/3/12.

Forgotten Feathers.

SHAW, "ZOOLOGY OF NEW HOLLAND, 1794."

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.R.S.E.

IN 1793 was begun a book dealing with some of the "Zoology and Botany of New Holland," as it was then called. The botanical specimens therein figured were all sent to England by John White, the Surgeon-General to the colony.

Although the title-page and preface to the "Botany," both of which are dated December, 1793, appeared in part i., I cannot find that that part was issued before 1794. The title-page of the

"Zoology" is dated 1794, and there is no preface or dedication, thus showing that it was considered to be one book, and it was so bound in one of my copies.

The wrappers in parts i. and ii. are small, and pasted on larger covers. No. 1 reads:—

"To be continued occasionally/of/Zoology and Botany/of/New Holland/and/the Isles adjacent/Published by J. Sowerby and Co., No. 2 Mead Place/Lambeth; may be had at No. 42 Paternoster Row,/and of the town and country booksellers."

The wrapper on part ii. is almost the same, but it has—"In future a number of this will be published every two months."

Part i. contains title page, half-title page, dedication, preface, and plates i.-iv., with their letter-press of botany, and, I think, *Psittacus eximius* and *Didelphis pygmæa* (original description), with their letter-press of zoology.

Part ii. contains plates v.-viii., with their letter-press of botany, and, I think, *Columba antartica* (original description) and *Chætodon constrictus* (original description) (?), with their letter-press of zoology.

After this the "Zoology" and "Botany" were issued separately. Two more parts of each came out and contained each four plates. The botanical plates were issued as now numbered, and are sixteen in number, and probably most of them received their scientific names for the first time. Part iv. of "Botany" is dated 1794, but three of the plates are dated 1st January, 1795. Plates vii. and viii. are dated 1st October, 1793; plates xiv., xv., xvi. are dated 1st January, 1795.

In the "Zoology" the plates were not issued in their right order. Part i., I think, contained plates i. and ii.

Part ii. contained plates v. and vi.

Plates Nos. ix., *Turdus punctatus* (original description); x., *Colubor porphyriacus* (original description); xi., *Didelphis sciurea* (original description); xii., *Didelphis macroura*, were issued together, and are dated September and November, 1794.

Plates Nos. iii., *Psittacus terrestris*; iv., *Merops phrygius* (original description); vii., *Testudo longicollis* (original description) (?); viii., *Canser serratus* (original description) (?), were issued together, and have "1794" on them. The wrapper to this part reads:—

"Zoology/of/New Holland/by/George Shaw, M.D., F.R.S.,/ &c., &c./ The figures by/James Sowerby, F.L.S./ This volume contains/The Ground Parrot. The Embroidered Merops. The Long-necked Tortoise. The Serrated Lobster./ In binding this work, the order of the pages only is to be attended to in/Descriptions, which are immediately to follow the corresponding Plates/. London/Printed by J. Davis/published by J. Sowerby, No. 2 Mead Place, Lambeth, to be had/at No. 13 Broadway, Black-Friars, and of the Town/and Country Booksellers/M.DCC.XCIV."

It will thus be seen that after the "Zoology" and "Botany" were issued separately, they were published at a different place than formerly, although still by the same publisher. In the "Zoology" there are 5 plates of birds, 3 of mammals, 1 fish, 1 tortoise, 1

crustacean, 1 reptile, and out of the 12 plates, I think 9 are original descriptions. What is now plate i. has No. 2 in the bottom corner, and some printing erased; plate iv. has No. 1 in the bottom corner, and also has something erased; these are the only two plates without a Latin name. Probably the author changed his idea before actually publishing. Plate ii., the first mammal plate, has "1" in the top right-hand corner; all the others have their correct numbers.

In the foregoing I can speak with certainty only of the "Botany"; for the "Zoology" I have gone on external evidence, as I only have one wrapper stating what that part contained.

A FRENCH EXPLORER'S AUSTRALIAN BIRD LIST.

BY ERNEST SCOTT, MELBOURNE.

CAPTAIN Nicholas Baudin was the commander of the French expedition despatched to Australia by Napoleon in 1800. He died at Mauritius before the return of his ships to Europe, and the history of his explorations was afterwards written by the naturalist, François Péron. Hitherto it was not known that Baudin himself wrote any account of the voyage, but researches made recently at the Archives Nationales, Paris, at the instance of an Australian student, have brought to light an interesting long letter, sent from Port Jackson, in November, 1802, to the Minister of Marine. In this document Baudin gives an account of his explorations in southern Tasmania, and includes a few notes on flora and fauna. His observations on birds may not be very striking, but, as they record the species seen by an early navigator, they have a certain value for ornithologists. The birds mentioned in the passage translated below from the manuscript copy were seen by Baudin at Bruni Island, Frederick Henry Bay, Maria Island, and Schouten Island, which were the principal anchorages of the British ships while engaged upon their explorations in Tasmanian waters. He wrote:—

"The species of sea-birds, without being remarkably varied, could, nevertheless, become a resource of an establishment at the outset. The Black Swan, the Pelican, the Albatross, the Cormorant, the Duck, the Teal, the Yellow-headed Booby ('le fou blanc à tête jaune'), the 'Goueland gris' (?), the Pied Oystercatcher ('la Pie de Mer à pieds et bec rouge'), the Sandpiper ('la Bécassine'), and the Seagulls are not to be overlooked. The Swan, however, appeared to us to deserve preference over all the others, independently of its size. Its flesh is delicate and agreeable when preserved in brine. But it is difficult to approach. The most favourable time for the pursuit of this bird is the moulting season, when it can only fly with difficulty, and when it can be captured while swimming, notwithstanding that it can acquit itself well even then. The Duck and the Teal are, after the Swan, the birds whose flesh make the best eating. The Cormorant and the



Mathews, Gregory Macalister. 1912. "Shaw, "Zoology of New Holland, 1794."." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 11(4), 255-257.
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