

a Sacred Kingfisher and a White-gaped Honey-eater. Two more natives came along during the afternoon bringing a pack of mangy dogs. The natives shifted camp to within 100 yards of the tent, so consider it advisable to sleep on board the boat.

5/4/21.—Uneventful.

6/4/21.—Get Eric to take down tent and fly and rig the latter as an awning over the stern of the boat. Will have to do all my work on board: natives and flies too much of a nuisance on shore. Take Kosia and Malaki and go inland N.E. for couple of miles, circle round to S.E. across a stretch of ironstone country heavily timbered. An occasional Northern Thickhead and Brown Honey-eater the only birds seen since leaving the beach. Strike a stretch of poorer country lighter timber with stunted cabbage gums and shrubs. A Black-ringed Finch flushed from a nest containing half-fledged young. A pair of Red-collared Lorikeets the only other birds observed. Strike another stretch of ironstone. A party of Red-breasted Babblers was seen. Magpies were flushed from ground some distance ahead; set out after them, but could not get near enough them. A Goshawk (*Astur approximans*) seen soaring over the tree-tops. Another lot of Magpies heard calling. Send the boys well round to drive the birds towards me, which they did, but the birds were flying high. Strike N.E. end of the Bluff. Heard some more Magpies calling; got within 70 yards of one. Others calling on the top of the Bluff. Set out after them; saw them several times, but could not get near them. Head back to camp; reach there 3.30 p.m., tired out. More natives came along to-day. This lot brought some spears. Thirty nine natives now in camp.

7/5/21.—Uneventful.

8/5/21.—Eric and I got out after the Magpies. Separate on the off chance of driving birds to each other. Saw one. Boobook Owl flushed from bushy top of tall messmate. Disturbed four Magpies, which flew off in Eric's direction. Have a good search for Owl, but cannot locate it again. Heard Magpies culling in towards Bluff. Go along foot of Bluff; four Magpies flush from the ground and fly into trees on the Bluff. Sit and watch them for about an hour; then they flew down into the timber about 200 yards away. Get down on my hands and knees and crawl through the undergrowth to within 50 yards of one of them. Brought it down. It was only slightly wounded. Use it as a decoy, and in about two hours I secured three more birds, two of them immature specimens. Get back to the boat, 2 p.m. Eric came along half an hour afterwards; he had been chasing the Magpies all over the top of the Bluff, but could not get near them.

[The history of the Magpies is interesting because attached to type-specimens. See Mr. H. L. White's descriptions.—A.J.C.]

Eagle and Cockatoo—Two Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were feeding on the seeds of a small vine, when an Eagle swooped down and grabbed one poor "Cockie," flying with it to a large tree, where the Eagle sat on one leg, holding the Cockie in the other, and quietly began pulling it to pieces with its beak, the Cockie shrieking all the time. The lads rode under the tree and threw sticks, and the Eagle flew away, and again perched on a tree, and the last the lads saw of it the Eagle was again holding it in one foot while eating it.—J. BLACK, Mrs. Adam Black, Payingo Station, Charters Towers, Queensland.