



*Upper: The Hooded Parrot.
Lower: The Golden-shouldered Parrot.*

The Emu

Official Organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union

"Birds of a Feather."

VOL. XXIV.]

1ST JULY, 1924.

[PART 1

Notes on the Golden-Shouldered and Hooded Parrots.

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In June, 1922, Taronga Park received through the courtesy of Mr. H. L. White ten young specimens of Golden-shouldered Parrots (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*) collected by Mr. W. McLennan at Coen, North Queensland.

These birds have now attained full plumage, and as they show some marked differences in external characters, colour, habits and call notes, from *P. dissimilis*, the Hooded Parrot (of which the Park possesses an extensive series from the Northern Territory), we think it advisable to record them here, thereby reducing the possibility of future mistakes.

For reference purposes we might state that Mathews, in his "Birds of Australia," vol. vi., p. 425, 1917, discussed the matter and placed *P. dissimilis* in the synonymy of *P. chrysopterygius*, though on page 430 of the same work he admitted *P. dissimilis* as a sub-species.

Later, H. L. White, in *The Emu*, xxii., 1922, p. 98, wrote: "A considerable amount of mystery was attached to this beautiful little Parrot, it being confused with the Hooded Parrot, *Psephotus dissimilis*, until W. McLennan set all doubts at rest by securing a pair on the Archer River, and sending them to Mathews, who confirmed Gould's identification made in 1857."

On comparing the two species, both with living specimens and skins in the Museum, we find that *P. chrysopterygius* is distinctly smaller and more slender than *P. dissimilis*; furthermore, it is much more active and perky, and has, in addition to the typical "cluk-cluk" note, a soft and pleasing whistle resembling "joe-joe," with an occasional "jeeo," neither of which have we heard uttered by *P. dissimilis*, the note of which is rather harsh.

In *P. chrysopterygius* the head feathers, especially those on the fore-part of the crown, can be raised in the form of a crest, while *P. dissimilis* shows no disposition to raise these feathers.

In referring to the remaining characters and colour markings, we have deemed it best to show them in tabular form, and in so doing have used those of the male only. In all we have examined eight pairs of the Golden-shouldered Parrot, and about twenty pairs of the Hooded Parrot.

<i>P. chrysopterygius.</i>	<i>P. dissimilis.</i>
Crown of head to tip of tail 245 mm.	280 mm.
Crown of head to base of tail 90 mm.	110 mm.
Wing, from bend to tip of longest quill 115 mm.	124 mm.
Mid-toe and claw . . 19 mm.	24 mm.
Tarsus 12 mm.	15 mm.
Approximate width of streak on nape . . 5 mm.	13-18 mm.
A definite yellow band 5 mm. wide stretches across the forehead.	No yellow band; black hood extending down to the bill.
Black cap, small, triangular, starting from above the eyes, and stretching backwards and inwards to the centre of the nape, where a narrow black streak extends backwards and joins the grey of the mantle.	Black cap large, starting from base of lower mandible, stretching below the eye towards the nape, covering the whole of the head. From the nape a broad band extends on to the mantle.
Gold patch on wing small, ill-defined, starting a little behind the point of the shoulder, and confined practically to the lesser wing coverts, though some of the greater coverts may be tinged with yellowish green. Gold patch about 24 x 14 mm.	Gold patch on wing large, clearly defined, starting from the point of the shoulder and covering the lesser, median and greater wing coverts. Gold patch about 52 x 21 mm.
The abdomen and under tail coverts red, the red feathers covering the tarsus.	The abdomen is greenish-blue, the under tail coverts alone being red, tarsus greenish. The female of North's type of <i>P. cucullatus</i> shows indistinct traces of red on lower abdomen and tarsus.
Grey of the mantle and back light.	The grey of the mantle variable, but generally darker than in <i>P. chrysopterygius</i> .

The colour of the hood in both species is black; in no specimens have we seen the brown as described by Collett.

As to the distribution of the two species, the Golden-shouldered Parrot appears to be restricted to the central parts of North Queensland, and the Hooded Parrot to the Northern Territory.*

The descriptions of the types may be found as under:—

P. chrysoterygius, Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 220, 1857 (Jan. 1858).

P. dissimilis, Collett, Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 356, 1898.

The Way of an Eagle

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The Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*) is to be found almost all over Australia, and at certain periods of the year it is numerous in some districts. Yet, owing to its wild and shy nature, it is an extremely difficult subject to approach closely enough to make a thorough study of its habits. It was my privilege, however, to discover a nest comparatively easy of access, it being situated only twenty feet from the ground, in the heavy fork of a blood-wood tree, and within easy distance of the station homestead.

With a view to taking photographs of some of the bird's movements, and also of making notes on its habits, I determined to take some trouble to secure that end. Previous unsuccessful experiences satisfied me that it would be useless endeavouring to "worm" myself into the bird's confidence, as may be done by perseverance with almost every other Western Queensland bird, but that, instead, I would have to adopt a system of camouflage, both for my camera and for myself. To shoot one of these birds usually means the use of a rifle at a fairly long range, as seldom will its shyness admit of its remaining within gunshot. You may suddenly emerge from a thick scrub and surprise an Eagle at close quarters whilst it is feeding from the carcase of some animal. Otherwise, it can only be seen soaring at a great height; so that without taking advantage of its nesting-season, and being well "dug in," it would appear to be almost impossible to make any close study of this wild subject.

When I first discovered the nest under notice, it contained two fairly fresh-looking eggs (although they proved to be well advanced in incubation), so I decided not to be impetuous, but to visit the spot quietly each day, and set plans that I would put into operation when the chickens arrived. I did not altogether

*There is a specimen of the Golden-shouldered from Port Darwin (1897) in the Australian Museum collection, but it evidently died in captivity as a cage-bird, and so may have come from other parts.