

Notes on the Type Locality of the Red-winged Parrot

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Latham described the Red-winged Parrot (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*) in 1781 (*Gen.Syn.Bds.*, vol. 1, p. 299) without any locality being stated; such was later given by him as 'New South Wales' (*Gen.Syn.Bds.Suppl.*, vol. 1, 1787, p. 60) from specimens in the possession of Pennant collected in eastern Australia in 1770 by the naturalists (Banks and Solander) with Cook, during the voyage of the *Endeavour*. Gmelin 'latinized' Latham's descriptions and, in 1788, named the Red-winged Parrot *Psittacus erythropterus* (*Syst.Nat.*, vol. 1, 1788, p. 343).

Cook gave the name of 'New South Wales' (at first in the form of 'New Wales') to the eastern part of Australia. The actual southern and northern boundaries of what is now New South Wales were not defined until Victoria was separated in 1851 and Queensland in 1859. It has been assumed that the 'New South Wales' mentioned by Latham, as the locality where the Red-winged Parrot was collected, is the New South Wales of to-day. Thus the R.A.O.U. *Checklist* (2nd ed. 1926, p. 46) gives the type locality of this species as 'N.S.W.' Gregory M. Mathews states: "This species . . . was brought back by Captain Cook's party, so it must have been a coastal bird in New South Wales at that time. I make this remark as North* states it is not found there at the present day" (*Birds of Australia*, vol. VI, pt. 3, 1917, p. 281). Similar remarks are made by Neville W. Cayley, who states: "Collected by Captain Cook's party, which proves that it was a coastal bird in New South Wales at that time" (*Australian Parrots*, 1938, p. 142).

Actually there is every reason to believe that the first specimens of the Red-winged Parrot were collected in some part of coastal Queensland. There are no records of its occurrence anywhere near the supposed type locality in New South Wales. The only place where Cook landed in that State was Botany Bay, a few miles south of Sydney, during April and May, 1770. However, its known distribution includes some of the coastal localities in Queensland visited by Cook, particularly Thirsty Sound, May 30 to June 1, 1770, and Endeavour River (Cooktown), June 18 to August 5, 1770.

Reference to the various journals dealing with the voyage of the *Endeavour* discloses that parrots were collected in several localities in eastern Australia, principally at Botany Bay, New South Wales, Thirsty Sound and Endeavour River,

*North, A. J., *Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds*, vol. III, pt. 2, 1911, p. 108.

Queensland. Such birds were generally referred to as 'Perroquets,' 'Loriquets,' 'Cocatoes,' 'Cockadores,' etc. In a few instances detailed descriptions are given of some of the parrots. This is so with the Red-tailed or Banksian Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksi*), a pencil sketch of which was made by Sydney Parkinson, the natural history artist on the *Endeavour* (Parkinson drawing no. 10, *Hist. Coll. Brit. Mus.* 1906, p. 174). A reproduction of this historic sketch appears in N. W. Cayley's *Australian Parrots* (opp. p. 64). We know that the Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) was collected at Botany Bay by the naturalists with Cook. This fact is mentioned in Peter Brown's *New Illustrations of Zoology*, 1776, in which work there is a figure of the bird (pl. VII, p. 14), the first published illustration of an Australian parrot. The Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*) was, of course, taken at Bustard Bay, Queensland.

Nothing definite can be gleaned from these early accounts of the voyage of the *Endeavour* about the locality where the Red-winged Parrot was collected. In the light of the known distribution of the species some part of coastal Queensland is suggested, perhaps Endeavour River (Cooktown). It is scarcely likely that the birds were collected at Botany Bay, for the species does not occur there.

The same problems arise with several other species of Australian parrots collected by the *Endeavour* naturalists. The case of the Cockatiel (*Leptolophus hollandicus*) is puzzling. This bird was named the 'Crested Parrakeet' by Latham (*Gen. Syn. Bds.*, vol. I, 1781, p. 250), with the locality as 'New Holland.' It does not normally inhabit coastal areas in eastern Australia, the only part of the continent explored by Cook.

Banks did not publish anything on the natural history of the *Endeavour* voyage. However, scientists of his time had access to his splendid collections of drawings and specimens, many of which were given to his friends, such as Pennant, and to museums then in existence, such as the Leverian and the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. Generally the published localities of the Australian birds are given either as 'New Holland' or 'New South Wales,' and sometimes as 'Native place uncertain.' The importance of type localities was not realized in those far off days of almost 175 years ago.

To return to the Red-winged Parrot—the evidence suggests that the original specimens were collected in some part of coastal Queensland. Therefore, it would be better to quote that State as the type locality in preference to New South Wales as it now appears in the *R.A.O.U. Check-list* (2nd ed. 1926, p. 46) and in the *Systema Avium Australasianarum* (pt. I, 1927, p. 331).