

The Cranbrook specimen (A 5792), a female, has the crown and the back somewhat lighter than in the Richmond River skin (representative of *walleri*), but there is no difference in the size and distribution of the white spots. The facial disc and margin have a light chestnut wash instead of pure white with a creamy white edge, except above the eyes where the margin is brownish in both cases. The chest is a dull dirty buff, not a bright sandy buff as in the other bird, and the whole under surface is generally more heavily spotted. The under tail coverts are spotted, not immaculate. The under primary and secondary coverts and the edge of the wing are much more spotted. The tail is a clearer and brighter buff with four brown cross-bands, the terminal pair extending on to the white outer feathers which have rather extensive brown mottling on the outer tip and slight buffy areas near the shaft. In the New South Wales bird the outer feathers are almost pure white with a single narrow terminal band and faint indications of mottling at the tip.

Comparative Measurements in millimetres:

	W.A.	N.S.W.	Qld. ♂ ¹	N.T. ♀ ¹
Right Wing	317	329	} 315	330
Left Wing	315	322		
Tarsus	77	80	80	78
Tail	108	111	—	112
Culmen	37	37	24 ²	22 ²

1. From Mathews, *op. cit.*

2. The difference between these measurements and those of the Western Australian and New South Wales birds is probably due to the methods adopted in taking the measurements; mine were made from the base of the skull to the tip of the culmen.

Notes on the Pterylography of the Australian Raven

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Having discovered that the late Dr. J. A. Leach (*Emu*, vol. 14, p. 34, 1914) was in error when he implied that the Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), which he used to represent the genus *Corvus* when making comparisons with *Strepera*, has eleven secondaries, I have made a preliminary examination of the pterylography of the species. In view of the uncertain and scattered nature of the literature on the subject, it is considered advisable to publish the following data obtained from several specimens of the Australian Raven.

Wing feathers twenty, comprising ten primaries and ten secondaries. Formula for primaries, commencing to count at the proximal end of the manus: 7, 8, 6, 9, 5, 4, 3-10, 2, 1.

Tenth and shortest secondary only about 53 per cent. length of first and longest secondary. Tail feathers twelve, the central pair longest and the outer pair being shortest.

Dorsal tract, or *pteryla spinalis*, of six rows of feathers, expands to form a rhombic central saddle in which is situate a narrow elongated featherless space or *apterium spinale*. On each side of the *apterium* are six rows of feathers, but immediately beyond the saddle only four rows occur. Gular portion of ventral tract, or *pteryla gastraei*, giving rise to pointed contour feathers or hackles, longest on the posterior part, only after the post-juvenile moult. Prior to the moult, the contour feathers of this area are round-tipped.

At the post-juvenile moult the primaries, secondaries, and tail feathers are retained and are shed only some months later, but before the individual acquires china-white irides and a fully pigmented pharynx.

Inferior space, or *apterium meso-gastraei*, extends from anterior portion of sternum to the anal tract or *pteryla ani*. On the front of the tarsus are eight undivided scutes free of feathers. The head tract, or *pteryla capitis*, is extensive, the aural and nasal portions well developed with feathers, or bristles in the latter case, entirely covering the orifices.

REFERENCES

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The Downy Plumage of the Australian Dabchick

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Until quite recently, the Australian Dabchick was considered a geographical race of the Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*). Dr. Rand, however, pointed out that the breeding ranges of the two forms overlapped in New Guinea, and that consequently the Australian Dabchick (*P. novæhollandiæ*) had to be treated as a full species. Subsequently, I showed (1943, *Emu*, vol. 43, pp. 3-7) that the zone of overlap included a considerable part of the Malay Archipelago.

In addition to the differences in the adult plumage, the colour pattern of the downy young is also strikingly different. The figure, drawn from study skins and not from live material, illustrates the differences better than any words can do. The most striking feature of *ruficollis* is that the white stripes of the hind neck converge on the occiput, whilst in *novæhollandiæ* they diverge, one of them