

(1926) tended to agree with Stresemann but would only accept two subspecies, *bennetti* with white feather bases and *coronoides* with grey feather bases. Hartert (1929) revised his former opinions and took sides with Mathews and Ogilvie-Grant in claiming that there were three Australian species. Campbell (1929) tried to place *bennetti* as a sub-species of *cecilae*, but this failed to find acceptance.

For 14 years the position remained unchanged and then Stresemann (1943) pointed out that *cecilae* was really only a subspecies of *C. orru* which ranges from the Molucca Islands through New Guinea; he also described a fourth species of *Corvus* from a single immature individual. Vaurie (1958) while accepting *C. orru cecilae* rejected the new species, agreeing with Mayr (1957) who said after discussing hybridization "the type of *difficilis* is such an aberrant specimen and certainly not the representative of a new species". In volume XV of Peters *Checklist of birds of the world* (1962), Vaurie, who edited this section, allows: *Corvus orru*, Australian Crow, four subspecies, one of which, *cecilae*, ranges over Australia. *Corvus bennetti*, Little Crow, no subspecies. *Corvus coronoides*, Australian Raven, two subspecies, one (*C. c. c.*) confined to the mainland and the other (*C. c. tasmaniensis*) to Tasmania.

Finally, Vaurie (in Peters 1962, footnote to p. 276) has rationalized the early nomenclature by eliminating the availability of the name *Corvus australis* Gmelin. Gmelin applied the name to two different species in the same publication, the second being a synonym of *Cuculus niger* Müller. Vaurie selected the second species (= *Cuculus niger*) as having priority according to the Code, thus disposing of the other *Corvus australis* as a homonym.

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**Dollar-birds nesting in southern Victoria.**—On January 9, 1966, it was reported to members of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club that a pair of Dollar-birds, *Eurystomus orientalis*, were nesting at Wonga Park. Several members visited the area and the birds were found to be nesting in a hollow spout of a dead gum-tree on the bank of the Yarra, at about 60 feet from the ground. The young were apparently at an advanced stage, very noisy, and being fed frequently by the adults. By January 18 they had left the nest and neither adults nor young were to be seen in its vicinity.

The last definitely recorded nesting of the Dollar-bird in southern Victoria was that reported by G.B. in the *Argus* of January 25, 1917, some 49 years previously, when they were said to have nested for four years in succession in a tall, dead eucalypt on the banks of the Yarra at Eltham.—JACK HYETT, Whitehorse Road, Croydon, Vic.