

to the above communication, remarked that the bird described by Dr. Mueller was no doubt the *Casuarus australis* of Gould; and with reference to the specimen in the Sydney Museum, Mr. W. Carron addressed a letter to the Editor of the 'Sydney Herald' on the 8th of February, 1867, in which he says:—"I have just seen the bird sent to the Museum by Mr. Johnson, and think it identical with that shot by Mr. Wall in the vicinity of Weymouth Bay in November 1848. I am aware that in the few remarks on Mr. Wall's bird, which appear in my narrative of Kennedy's expedition, there is an error as to the colour of the helmet or comb, which was black, not red. . . . As I was present when Wall's bird was shot, and helped to eat it, I had a good opportunity of knowing something respecting it. Instead of going in flocks of five or six together, it is certainly a solitary bird, and would appear to be very scarce, as only two others were seen by our party during the whole journey from Rockingham Bay to my furthest camp at Weymouth Bay, in latitude 12° 25' S. This bird had shorter but larger legs, a heavier body, and shorter neck than the Emu. It appears to confine itself to the gullies in the thick jungles with the Brush-Turkeys and Jungle-fowl, feeding on the various fruits found there, even swallowing the large seeds of *Castanospermum* and *Pandanus*. Mr. Wall took every care of the skin he was able to do; but it was completely destroyed before he died, together with my own specimens at Weymouth Bay. This bird was certainly very large, and furnished our whole party with a better supper and breakfast than we had enjoyed for some months, or than poor Wall was destined to enjoy again (as he and all his companions, with the exception of myself and one other, had died in six weeks after from want of food); but there was not one in the party who would not have eaten more if he could have got it, every meal having been divided with the greatest nicety for a long time."

On the 11th of June, 1868, Mr. Sclater exhibited to the Zoological Society a very fine and perfect skin of the *Casuarus australis*, which had been transmitted to him by Mr. Charles J. Scott, of Queensland, and was believed to be the first example that had reached Europe. Along with the specimen Mr. Scott forwarded a careful description and sketch of the head and naked parts of the neck, which Mr. Sclater very kindly placed in my hands, and thus enabled me to give the annexed correct illustration, of the size of life. Mr. Sclater remarked that some naturalists had been inclined to doubt whether the *Casuarus australis* would prove to be really distinct from the well-known *Casuarus galeatus* of Ceram, but he believed that no one who examined the present specimen could any longer doubt upon the matter. The following appeared to him to be noticeable points of distinction between the two species:—

The crest of the Australian bird is of a different shape from that of *C. galeatus*, rising much more erect from the head, and attaining a much greater development than in even the largest examples of the latter species. In *C. australis* also the crest is extremely compressed towards the edges, terminating in two thin laminae of horn united in a medial line. The tarsi are thicker and stouter, and the elongated claw on the inner toe of *C. australis* is straighter and much more developed. The following stated dimensions of the present specimen appear to indicate that the species attains a much greater size than *C. galeatus*:—Total length, from the summit of the helmet to the end of the caudal feathers, about 72 inches; total height of the crest, from its base to the summit, 5·8; distance from the gape to the end of the bill, in a straight line, 6·1; length of tarsus 13·3; length of the inner toe with the nail 6·3, nail of ditto 3·5; length of the middle toe with the nail 7·0, outer ditto with the nail 4·5. The wing in *C. australis* is composed of four or five strong barbless quills, and terminated, as in other species of the genus, by a well-developed claw. The gular caruncle appears rather to resemble that of *C. galeatus*, being divided nearly down to its base, and terminating in two flaps.

It may, perhaps, be thought that my representation of the head and neck is too highly coloured; but I must remind my readers that, as is the case with the salacious Turkey and the equally hot *Talegalla*, those parts of the Cassowary are very different in appearance at opposite seasons; and thus the bare skin of the neck may be smooth at one period and corrugated at another. I have had abundant evidence that such is the case with the examples of *Casuarus galeatus* which have lived and bred in the Gardens of the Zoological Society for many years past, and I feel assured that what takes place in one species also occurs in the other.

I have so many gentlemen to thank for the assistance they have rendered me respecting this important bird, that I am fearful lest I may omit to name some one or more of them; if this should be the case, I hope the seeming negligence may be regarded as mere inadvertence. To Mr. Arthur J. Scott and his brothers I am especially indebted, and not less so to Dr. Bennett of Sydney (who sent me a photograph of the specimen in the Sydney Museum), to Professor M'Coy and Dr. Mueller of Melbourne, Victoria, C. Coxen, Esq., of Brisbane, and Mr. Sclater.

I do not append a description of the bird, because my plates will convey far more readily its appearance and colouring than any words, however characteristic and expressive.

One of the annexed illustrations represents the head and legs, of the size of life; the other an entire figure of the bird, necessarily much reduced.