

constitute its food. It breeds during August and the four following months, and often rears two or more broods; the eggs are white and two in number, one inch and three-eighths long and one inch broad.

Its nest, which is very similar to that of the other members of the family, is a frail structure of small twigs, rather hollow in form, and is usually placed on the horizontal branch of an apple- or gum-tree near the ground, those trees growing on flat meadow land near water being evidently preferred. This species is very frequently seen in confinement, both in its native country and in England, but I have not heard whether it will or will not breed in captivity. At Swan River it is said to be migratory, and to be met with in the interior of that part of the country in large flocks. At Port Essington, on the contrary, it would seem to be stationary, as Mr. Gilbert mentions that it is found equally abundant in all parts of the country; its nest is there placed upon the branches of the Banksias.

Forehead in some deep buff, in others buffy white; line under the eye and the chin yellowish white; crown of the head and occiput dark brown, bounded on the sides with plum-colour; sides of the neck grey; back of the neck and all the upper surface brown, each feather margined with tawny brown; wings brown with paler edges; each of the coverts with an oblong spot of rich lustrous coppery bronze on the outer web near the base, the outline of which towards the extremity of the feather is sharply defined; tip of each of the coverts grey fading into white on the extreme tip; two or three of the tertiaries with an oblong spot of lustrous green on their outer webs at the base, bounded by a narrow line of buff; two centre tail-feathers brown; the remainder deep grey, crossed by a band of black near the tip; under surface of the wing and inner edges of the primaries and secondaries ferruginous; breast deep vinaceous, passing into greyish on the centre of the abdomen and under tail-coverts; irides dark reddish brown; bill blackish grey; legs and feet carmine-red.

The figures represent the male and female of the natural size, the latter in the agonies of death from a shot-wound.