

flowering branches of the larger *Eucalypti* with their beauty and their lively actions; the little Grass Parrakeets frequent the plains of the interior and render these solitary spots a world of animation; nay, the very towns, particularly Hobart Town and Adelaide, are constantly visited by flights of this beautiful tribe of birds, which traverse the streets with arrow-like swiftness, and chase each other precisely after the manner the Swifts are seen to do in our own islands. In the public roads of Van Diemen's Land the beautiful *Platycerci* may be constantly seen in small companies, performing precisely the same offices as the Sparrow in England. I have also seen flocks of from fifty to a hundred, like tame pigeons, at the barn-doors in the farm-yards of the settlers, to which they descend for the refuse grain thrown out with the straw by the threshers. As might naturally be expected, the agriculturist is often sadly annoyed by the destruction certain species effect among his newly-sown and ripening corn, particularly where the land has been recently cleared and is adjacent to the brushes. Fifty-five well-defined species of this great family are described and figured in the present work. They appear to constitute four great groups, each comprising several genera, nearly the whole of which are strictly and peculiarly Australian; for instance, neither *Calyptorhynchus*, *Platycercus*, *Euphema*, *Psephotus*, *Melopsittacus*, or *Nymphicus* have been found in any other country; and whether we consider the elegance of their forms or the beauty of their plumage, they may vie with the members of this extensive family from any part of the world.

#### Genus *CACATUA*, *Briss.*

Australia, the Molucca and Philippine Islands and New Guinea are the great nurseries of the members of this genus. They incubate in holes of trees or in rocks, and lay two eggs.

361. *Cacatua galerita* . . . . . Vol. V. Pl. 1.

There are evidently several varieties or races of this species in Australia, each possessing a modification in the form of the bill doubtless given for some specific purpose; the Van Diemen's Land bird is the largest, and has the upper mandible attenuated, while the Port Essington bird is altogether smaller, and has a much more arched bill.

362. *Cacatua Leadbeaterii* . . . . . Vol. V. Pl. 2.

This species ranges over all the southern portions of Australia between the 20th and 30th degrees of S. latitude. I have never seen a specimen from the north, and I believe it does not inhabit that part of the country; its true habitat appears to be the interior, for it is never found near the coast.

363. *Cacatua sanguinea*, *Gould* . . . . . Vol. V. Pl. 3.

This species has been found on the north coast, and was observed by Captain Sturt at the Dépôt in Central Australia; we may hence infer that its range extends over all the intermediate country.

364. *Cacatua Eos* . . . . . Vol. V. Pl. 4.

This fine bird, which is strictly Australian, is distributed over all parts of the interior of the country, and is as abundant in the north as it is in the south; it was also observed by Captain Sturt at the Dépôt.

The specimens from the north are of a larger size and have the orbits more denuded than those from the south.

#### Genus *LICMETIS*, *Wagl.*

The two species forming the genus *Licmetis* are not only confined to Australia, but, so far as we yet know, to the southern portions of that continent; one inhabits the western and the other the eastern part of the country. Their singularly formed bill being admirably adapted for procuring their food on the ground, they are more terrestrial in their habits than the other members of the family.

365. *Licmetis nasicus* . . . . . Vol. V. Pl. 5.

366. *Licmetis pastinator*, *Gould*.

*Licmetis pastinator*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VIII. p. 175.