

REFERENCES TO BIRDS IN "GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELS IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA, 1872-1874" BY ERNEST GILES

(Abstracted by J. B. CLELAND)

August 27, 1872. Near the Finke River. "To-day I observed a most beautiful *pigeon* (*Lophophaps plumifera*) quite new to me; it is of a dark-brown colour; mottled under the throat and on the breast. It is considerably smaller than the Sturt pigeon; it had also a high top-knot. It flies in small flocks, and runs along the ground for considerable distances." Next day a *hawk* was shot for some natives. On August 30, Giles frightened several natives when he shot two *ducks*. Next day, near the Glen of Palms a flock of several hundred *pelicans* made their appearance on a waterhole. On September 5, six very fat *ducks* were shot on the Finke. Under September 10, Giles noted that a few *emus* had been seen lately, and next day numerous *kangaroos* and *emus* were observed on a plain near Haast Bluff. On September 12, a great number of each of these were seen. On September 13 several *emus* and some *crows*, *hawks*, *quail* and *bronze-winged pigeons* were recorded. On October 8 near Glen Edith a few *bronze-winged pigeons* were again noted. A few *emus* were seen on October 11. On October 16 a number of *bronze-wing pigeons* were shot for food.

In his expedition of 1873-4, on August 21 near Hamilton Creek, the nest of a *native pheasant* or *lowan* (*Leipoa ocellata*) was found, but there were no eggs in it. Near Ayers Range on August 25 several *emus* came round the party. On August 28, coming upon several *emus* induced Giles to look for water, which he found in some claypans. On August 31 near the Sentinel, east of the Musgrave Ranges, *parrots* were shot for soup, and Giles noted that 'only a few small *magpies* and one or two *pigeons*, though plenty of kangaroos, wallabies and *emus*,' had been seen. In Glen Ferdinand near Ernabella several flocks of *ducks* were flushed on September 4. In the Mann Range on September 25 more *ducks* were flushed and next day numerous flights of *ducks* were seen on a lake. Numerous *ducks* were again noted on September 30. The nest of a *lowan* or *scrub-pheasant* with six fresh eggs was found on October 2, and three more, containing 2, 4, and 6 eggs respectively, on October 8—Giles noted the fragility of the shells. A great number of *pigeons* were seen round the Rampart Range on November 15.

(The *italics* are the transcriber's.)