

Neophema splendida, Scarlet-chested Parrot.

By J. Sutton.

On 23rd August, 1928, during a visit by the members of the Anthropological Board of the University of Adelaide to the Koönibba Mission Station, an immature female of the above species was brought in a dying condition by an aboriginal to Professor J. B. Cleland, M.D., one of the party. It had evidently been struck with a stone, and all the tail-feathers were

wanting except two yellow ones, which were loose. No information could be elicited about the bird, as the members of the Board were on the point of departure.

On 15th September, 1928, Professor Cleland received through the post from Pastor C. Hoff, the head of the Mission Station, a beautiful male specimen of this species. On writing to Pastor Hoff for particulars he has very kindly supplied the following (20/12/1928):—

“I am sorry to say there is very little I can tell you. All I can say is that I found that bird whilst inspecting our crops. I saw it fluttering among the bushes just below a one-wire fence (barbed wire). I found one wing broken. Evidently the bird either received the injury from a bigger bird, or, what seems more likely, it flew against the barbed wire and got winged. The wound was perfectly fresh as if the injury had only just then taken place. I found it on a Monday (10/9/1928) and took it home alive, but found it dead on Wednesday morning, so on Thursday I posted it to Professor Cleland. . . . Since then I have kept my eyes open to see whether there were more about. . . . On 2nd December I noticed at first three, then a few hundred yards further on six or seven Parrots, which, I am sure, were Scarlet-chested. My eyes are not too good, so I was not too certain, but I had a native with me who was sure they were Scarlet-chested. They are rather shy and not easily approached. These nine or ten were about two miles from where I found the first specimen (the male). So it seems to me they are not by any means extinct. No one over here troubles about Parrots which are smaller than the Port Lincoln Parrot, and so they evade detection.”

The particulars of these birds were—

♀ (23/8/1928)—Iris dark brown; bill dark grey; feet earthy-brown. Total length $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings $12\frac{1}{2}$ in.

♂ (10/9/1928)—Iris —; bill blackish-brown; feet greyish brown. Total length 8 in.; span of wings 12 in.

Koonibba is situated about $133^{\circ} 50'$ East Longitude and 32° South Latitude. It is some 20 miles north-north-west of Ceduna, on Denial Bay, on the West Coast of South Australia.

Both these specimens are now in the S.A. Museum.