
The Bustard, or Plain-Turkey

(*Eupodotis australis*).

By Dr. A. M. Morgan.

In September, 1929, I had an opportunity to see a male Bustard displaying before the female in the Zoological Gardens, Adelaide, and the following is a description of the performance:—The tail is everted to lie on the back, the end of it touching the back of the neck. The beak is pointed upwards, and the feathers of the throat and upper part of the neck are puffed out. The skin and feathers of the breast hang down like an apron and touch the ground, and this apron is kept swinging from side to side. The beak is opened and closed with a snap, making a hollow drum-like sound, which is followed by a noise like a loud snore or like a locomotive in the far distance blowing-off steam. Then the beak is opened and closed again without noise. During the whole performance the bird is constantly trampling with his feet and slowly turning round. After an interval of a few seconds the whole display is repeated. When put off displaying, the tail returned to the normal position, and the apron shrank to the height of the “knee,” seven inches from the ground.
