

TAXONOMY OF AUSTRALIAN CROWS

The Crows of Australia have received much attention from taxonomists over the past 40 years, and several distinct schemes of classification have been proposed for them. Mack (1953) believes that there are only two species, namely *bennetti* and *coronoides*, and Mayr (1957) thinks that hybridization may occur between the three generally accepted species.

In a paper entitled "Remarks on Some Corvidae of Indo-Malaya and the Australian Region," Dr. Charles Vaurie (*American Mus.*,

Nov., 1915: 1-13; Dec., 1958) recognises three species, viz. *coronoides*, *orru*, and *bennetti*.

Stresemann's *C. difficilis* from Queensland is regarded as probably an aberrant small-billed *coronoides*.

The Australian Crow (*C. ceciliae*) of the Official Checklist is considered as a race of the New Guinea Crow (*C. orru*), its morphological characters, particularly the wing formula, being distinct from the two other Australian species.—*E.F.B.*