
BABBAGE AND BIRDS

Extract from a letter written by B. H. Babbage to the Commissioner of Crown Lands (F. S. Dutton), dated September 1, 1858, and included in SAPP No. 25 for 1858:

“A great variety of small birds inhabit the scrubs; but I believe they live without water, as they are found everywhere. Small falcon hawks are very abundant. Occasionally an eaglehawk is to be found; and I have seen three or four fine black eagles during the course of this journey. Amongst

the birds at the Elizabeth are the beautiful miniature doves, described by Sturt as the speckled dove. On several occasions we met in the scrub with rose cockatoos; but they appear to be no indication of the presence of water. Crows—a much more certain sign—I occasionally saw, and there was often a puddle of rain-water not very far off. At Oakden Hills, Warriner shot a bird we believe to be new, somewhat resembling a bower-bird. We carefully preserved the skin for the museum.”—*B. C. Newland.*