

GLOSSY BLACK COCKATOO IN THE SOUTH-EAST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In a letter to the Hon. Editor, dated January 8, 1963, Mr. Claude Austin, of Wilaroo, Coleraine, Victoria questions records of this species near Naracoorte, South Australia and in western Victoria (see also *South Austr. Ornith.*, 14, p. 111; *ibid.*, 23, p. 112). He states that a specimen of this cockatoo, generally believed to have been taken at Coleraine, Victoria and housed in the National Museum of Victoria, actually came from Coleraine, New South Wales; that it was presented to the museum "in the latter part of last century" by the newspaper "*The Australasian*"; and that the exact place of its collection will probably remain unknown because the New South Wales locality "Coleraine" can not be traced.

Mr. Austin says: "I am firmly convinced that the Glossy Black Cockatoo (*C. lathami*)

does not exist in western Victoria or in the adjacent area of South Australia." All records in these parts should therefore be referred to the red-tailed species (*C. magnificus*). Mr. Austin claims that the red-tailed Cockatoos in his district have "a considerably larger portion of yellow than do their relations in central and northern Australia. This population ranges over an area bounded roughly by the Little Desert in the north, the Grampians in the east, Hamilton-Mt. Gambier road in the south," and perhaps extends to the Mallee belt in South Australia, which would form a western boundary. Specimens of these birds are in the National Museum and probably represent "a separate race"; the population appears to be isolated from those in other parts of the continent.

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