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David Scott Mitchell.









This came to nothing. The shell ought to  
be called this "specimen"

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# GOULD'S BIRD'S OF AUSTRALIA

PUBLISHED IN  
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# GOULD'S BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA

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A FAC-SIMILE REPRODUCTION IN A REDUCED FORM  
COMPRISING  
OVER 1,000 FIGURES IN COLOUR, REPRESENTING 694 DISTINCT SPECIES

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RE-PRODUCED BY

G. J. BROINOWSKI,

Author of

“THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA,” “BIRDS & MAMMALS OF AUSTRALIA”  
(School Series), “PIGEONS OF AUSTRALIA,” &c., &c.

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# INTRODUCTION

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THERE can be no doubt that popular ignorance of the true natural characteristics of our native birds is the chief cause of their wholesale destruction ; otherwise it would be inconceivable that any sane man would make it his business to destroy every bird in his neighbourhood, if he was aware that by so doing he was conserving the locust, the caterpillar, and other pests which sooner or later are sure to compass his own ruin. Ignorance, however, is no crime if the right medium of acquiring knowledge is wanting. Unlike other civilized countries, Australia has no popularly recognised natural history in any shape. What there is, is so much above the popular reach that they might just as well have been non-existent.

Gould's *Birds of Australia*, known to all, though seen by few, was published at £128 a copy—a startling price for a book ! It must be remembered, however, that Gould's incomparable work is not the result of fireside studies of skins and feathers. Every bird portrayed upon his pages has been studied and drawn from the living subject in its natural haunt. What it must have cost in suffering and endurance to traverse the wilds of Australia for five weary years upon such a quest, would be difficult to imagine—especially if it be also remembered that out of the four who started upon this expedition, Gould alone survived. Gilbert, Strong, and another were treacherously murdered by the " blacks " in different parts of the continent. Add to this the enormous cost of building such a monumental work—a work which will ever remain the standard of Australian Ornithology—and the wonder at its price—now more than quadrupled—will cease.

My own publication *The Birds of Australia*, issued twenty years ago, although at less than a fifth the price of Gould's work, was nevertheless too much of an *edition de luxe* to meet the popular requirement.

But " it is never too late to mend." Even at the eleventh hour—thanks to opportunity and much experience—I am enabled to make reparation by issuing, in a reduced form, a *fac simile* of Gould's magnificent work, at a publishing price, which the mere saving of a penny a day, for a while, will meet.

Of course there is risk as well as labour in the task. But there is also hope—hope that this faithful representation of Gould's infinitely greater effort may reach the eyes and minds of the rising generation, which will enable them to see for themselves the utter folly and wickedness of wantonly destroying what Providence had designed to adorn their native land and safeguard its fertility.

The work will comprise upwards of 1000 figures in colour, representing 694 distinct species, all fully, if briefly, described as far as possible up to date. It will be published in 30 parts of 24 subjects each, at 2/6, payable on delivery. The last part will contain an Introduction, Indexes, Classification Tables, and every other requisite to make the whole into one complete volume.

Subscribers are requested to sign the annexed order form, otherwise successive parts cannot be guaranteed.



G. J. BROINOWSKI.

GENUS HIERAËTUS (*Kaup*).

**Sp. 4 (No. 4, Plate 1)**—

**WHITE BREASTED SEA EAGLE**—*Heliastur Leucosternus* (*Gould*).

The White Breasted Sea Eagle is very common on the Northern and Eastern portions of Australia, where it takes up its abode in the most secluded and retired parts of bays and inlets of the sea. The chief food of this species is fish and crustaceans, which it captures either by plunging down or by dexterously throwing out its foot while flying close to the water. It breeds from the beginning of July to the end of August. The sexes are alike in colour.

**Sp. 5 (No. 5, Plate 1)**—

**WHISTLING EAGLE**—*Haliastur Sphenurus* (*Gould*).

This species, although a terror to poultry yards, effects more good during the frequent visitations of the destructive caterpillars than almost any other bird in the bush. Not only does it follow the scourge and feed upon it voraciously, but is constantly on the hunt for the larvae. But, like many other beneficial birds, ignorantly regarded as pests are destroyed wherever seen; their total extermination therefore is not far off. They breed in November and December, generally producing two young.

**Sp. 6 (No. 6, Plate 1)**—

**WHITE-HEADED OSPREY**—*Pandion Leucocephalus* (*Gould*).

This somewhat rare bird is not confined to particular localities; it wanders wherever fish is plentiful, which it catches alive by diving. Gilbert found one of its nests on Rottnest Island, which measured fifteen feet in circumference.

PLATE I.





## GENUS FALCO.

### Sp. 7 (No. 7, Plate 1)—

“**GREY FALCON**”—*Falco Hypoleucus* (*Gould*).

This rare and beautiful Falcon adds another species to the typical falcons, and affords another proof of the analogies existing between certain groups of the Southern and Northern Hemispheres. Its habitat is chiefly confined to South and West Australia.

### Sp. 8 (No. 8, Plate 1)—

**BLACK-CHEEKED FALCON**—*Falco Melanogenys* (*Gould*).

Gilbert states that he has seen this bird carry off a white-eyed duck—a species at least as heavy again as itself. No difficulty, therefore, to estimate its character. It is to be found on the rocky coasts in almost every part of Australia. It builds its nest upon high rocks and lays two eggs resembling coloured marble.

### Sp. 9 (No. 9, Plate 1) —

**BLACK FALCON**—*Falco Subniger* (*Gray*).

Is to be found in the interior of South and West Australia. Mr. Gurney states that it is also found in New Zealand. Like all its congeners, it lives by rapacity.

## GENUS FALCO.

### Sp. 10 (No. 10, Plate 1)—

#### WHITE-FRONTED FALCON—*Falco Lunulatus* (Lath.).

This, the smallest of the true falcons, found in Australia is a stationary species in all the colonies. "I succeeded in finding several of its nests both in Tasmania and the continent: they were all placed near the tops of lofty trees: the eggs were either two or three in number, of a light buff, blotched with dark buff, one inch and ten lines long by one inch and four lines broad."

## GENUS HIERACIDEA.

### Sp. 11 (No. 11, Plate 1)—

#### BROWN HAWK—*Ieracidea Berigora* (Gould).

This is another species which the farmer, to avenge the loss of a chicken, destroys with gusto: ignorant of the fact that were it not for these birds, which congregate in large flocks in pursuit of the caterpillars, his crops would be ruined. The many varieties and changes of plumage that are to be found among these birds has given rise to the fancied discoveries of new species, which, however, as in many other instances, are only freaks of Nature. The eggs found in the nests of these birds are very beautiful and like their plumage, no two are alike.

### Sp. 12 (No. 12, Plate 1)—

#### WESTERN BROWN HAWK—*Ieracidea Occidentalis* (Gould).

This is another victim to popular error. It not only follows and devours destructive pests, but its favourite resorts being in swamps and low-lying country, it deals with the larvae of injurious insects by millions. It builds its nest near the ground, where as many as four eggs are hatched. Its habitat is generally spread over Western and Southern Australia.

## GENUS TINNUNCULUS.

Sp. 13 (No. 1, Plate 2)—

**NANKEEN KESTREL**—*Tinnunculus Cenchroides* (Gould).

Gilbert, in the journal kept by him during Dr. Leichhardt's Expedition, says :—  
“ October 2. Found for the first time the eggs of *Tinnunculus Cenchroides*, four in number, deposited in a hollow spout of a gum-tree overhanging a creek. They are freckled all over with blotches and minute dots of reddish chestnut on a paler ground, and are one inch and five-eighths in lengths by one inch and a quarter in breadth. Similar nests belonging to the same bird were found on the Namoi in N.S.W. in the month of May, which shows the wide range of this species. It subsists almost entirely upon the larger kinds of insects, lizards, &c., and caterpillars.

## GENUS LEUCOSPIZA,

Sp. 14 (No. 2, Plate 2)—

**NEW HOLLAND GOSHAWK**—*Astur Novae-Hollandiae* (Gould).

Is chiefly confined to the dense scrubs of the Northern parts of New South Wales, where it finds its favorite diet, such as lizards, frogs, &c. The mature young differ but slightly from the adults, except that the breast-markings become darker with age.

Sp. 15 (No. 3, Plate 2)—

**WHITE GOSHAWK**—*Astur Novae-Hollandiae Albino* (Gould).

Mr. Gould and the Rev. T. J. Ewing, of Tasmania, expressed decidedly different opinions as regards the distinctness of this species. The fact, however, that the White Goshawk once existed in the Northern parts of Europe, notably in Poland, where it was raised to the dignity of its national emblem, Professor Kaup was fully justified in assigning a distinct generic title to this form. The White Goshawk is peculiar to Tasmania, where it is by no means very rare. The sexes vary considerably in size, the female being very much larger than the male.

GENUS MILVUS *Cav.*

Sp. 22 (No. 10, Plate 2)—

SQUARE-TAILED KITE—*Milvus Isurus* (*Gould*).

This species is easily distinguishable by the squareness of its tail. It is one of the greatest benefactors to rural industry, as its whole life is spent in the destruction of caterpillars and inimical pests. It is fairly distributed all over the continent. The breeding season does not begin till nearly the end of the year. Building its nest upon high trees, two young are hatched.

GENUS ELANUS (*Savigny*).

Sp. 23 (No. 11, Plate 2)—

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE—*Elanus Axilaris* (*Gould*).

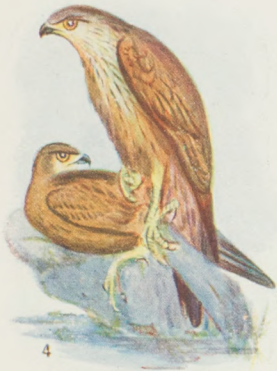
The Black-Shouldered Kite is a summer visitant to the Southern portions of the Australian continent, over which it is very widely but thinly dispersed. In its disposition it is much less courageous than the other members of the Australian *Falconidae*, and as its feeble bill and legs would indicate, lives more on insects and reptiles than on birds and mammals. The sexes closely assimilate to each other in colouring. The young differ in having the feathers of the upper surface tipped with buffy brown.

Sp. 24 (No. 12, Plate 2)—

LETTER-WINGED KITE—*Elanus Scriptus* (*Gould*).

The principal character by which the Letter-Winged Kite differs from *E. Axilaris* is the great extent of the black mark on the under surface of the wing, which assumes, when the wing is spread, the form of the letter V, or, if both wings are seen from beneath at the same time, that of a W, divided in the centre by the body. It nests in companies of thirty or more. It lays from four to five eggs, of a white ground blotched with reddish brown.

PLATE II.







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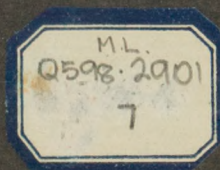


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