

His property contains about sixteen thousand acres of the most fertile land in the colony. The soil is composed of decomposed trap rock, and has the appearance of a rich chocolate-coloured mould, which retains the moisture well. The timber which grows upon it is closer and heavier than in the sandstone districts: it is principally *Eucalyptus* of several species. The grass is thinly spread over the ground, and the cattle and sheep require a great range. One sheep to an acre is the allotment, and even in this proportion they suffer in dry seasons. There are no running streams of water on this estate; but, as has been remarked, the pools are numerous, a most happy circumstance for the country, for from these alone can the cattle be supplied. Argyle is the only place where springs were seen in this part of the country, and they are scanty. The crops of wheat were unusually good, but they were the first that had been collected for three years.

The variety of birds seen here, and the brilliancy of their plumage, are characteristic of Australia. All the birds are remarkable for the closeness of their plumage, and the neatness of their form; many of the species are peculiar to Australia, and are more nearly allied to those of the western part of the Indian Archipelago than of any other region. Even this analogy is extremely limited. Many of the Australian species are said to be confined to peculiar districts, which they only leave on emergency, from want of food, &c.

Mr. Coxen, near Peuen Beuen, informed our gentlemen that several birds had made their appearance around his dwelling that season, that were not known within a hundred miles of his place before. From the little that is known of the ornithology of the rest of New Holland, it seems that the same general character prevails throughout the whole continent, and there are grounds for believing that there is a complete diversity in the species from those of New Guinea. As an instance of this, it may be stated that none of the paradise-birds, so common in the islands to the north, have been found in Australia; and what appears to add strength to this opinion, is the fact that the land birds of Norfolk Island are all known to be peculiar.

The number of parrots that are seen is very great. They usually occupy the tops of trees, and are remarkable for the rapidity of their flight, particularly a green species, little larger than a humming-bird, with which the trees occasionally swarm. Other birds, hardly known to the ornithologist, are also numerous; but Mr. Gould, who is eminent in that department of natural history, is now engaged in making collections, and will probably, ere long, give a full account of the habits and economy of the Australian birds.

The Australian wood-pecker is the famous bill-bird whose note is