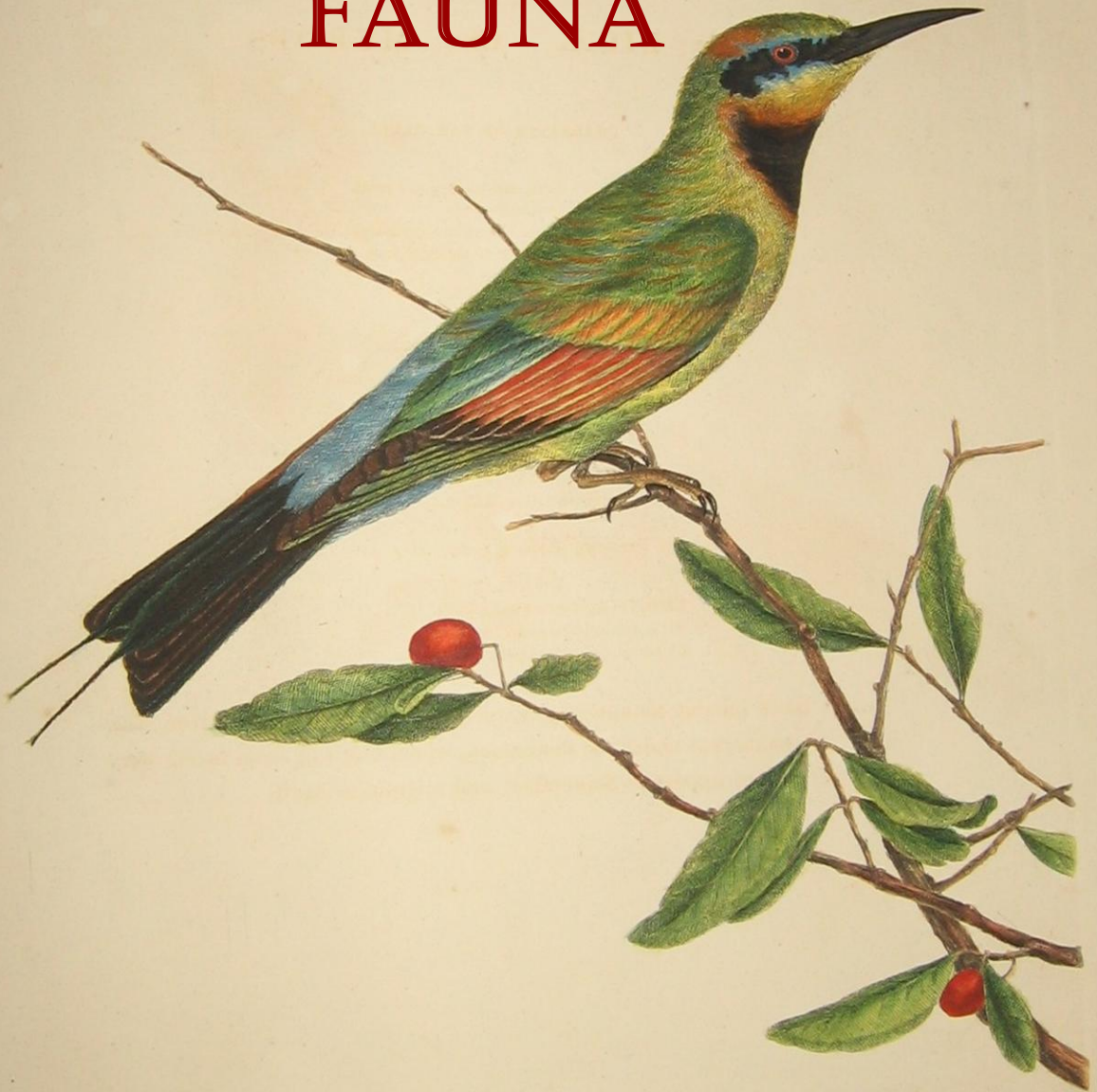




# BIRDS – FIRST IMAGES OF OUR AVIAN FAUNA



*J. W. LEWIN 1808*

**MAY 2019**

**SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA'S  
HISTORY  
FESTIVAL**

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA

MORTLOCK WING, L2 SOUTH  
STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE

**82077266 [LIBRARY@RGSSA.ORG.AU](mailto:LIBRARY@RGSSA.ORG.AU)**

Our earliest images of birds (and other fauna) were depicted by our Aboriginal communities several millennia before Europeans strode onto the continent.

(Nourlangie Rock Art, N.T. circa 15,000 years old)



Since European arrival in the late eighteenth century there has been an intense interest in Australia's fauna, particularly birds and particularly among the scientific community of Europe and Northern America who avidly collected bird skins and birds as exotic pets. The range of colourings on the birds and their variety of shapes were so very appealing.

Australia and its offshore islands and territories have 898 recorded bird species as of 2014. Of the recorded birds, 165 are considered vagrant or accidental visitors, of the remainder over 45% are classified as Australian endemics: found nowhere else on earth.

Australian birds can be classified into six categories:

- ☀ *Old endemics*: long-established non-passerines of ultimately Gondwanan origin, notably *emus*, *cassowaries* and the *huge parrot group*
- ☀ *Corvid radiation*: Passerines peculiar to Australasia, descended from the crow family, and now occupying a vast range of roles and sizes; examples include *wrens*, *robins*, *magpies*, *thornbills*, *pardalotes*, the *huge honeyeater family*, *treecreepers*, *lyrebirds*, *birds-of-paradise* and *bowerbirds*.
- ☀ *Eurasian colonists*: later colonists from Eurasia, including *plovers*, *swallows*, *larks*, *thrushes*, *cisticolas*, *sunbirds* and some *raptors*.

☀ *Recent introductions:* birds recently introduced by humans; some, such as the *European goldfinch and greenfinch*, appear to coexist with native fauna; others, such as the *common starling, blackbird, house and tree sparrows, and the common myna*, are more destructive.

☀ *Migratory shorebirds:* a suite of *waders* in the Scolopacidae and Charadriidae families which breed in northern Asia and Alaska and spend the non-breeding season in Australasia.

☀ *Seabirds:* a large and cosmopolitan group of *petrels, albatrosses, sulids, gulls, terns and cormorants*, many of which either breed on islands within Australian territory or frequent its coast and territorial waters.

**Parrots**, also known as psittacines are birds of the roughly 393 species in 92 genera that make up the order *Psittaciformes*, found in most tropical and subtropical regions. The order is subdivided into three superfamilies:

- ☀ Psittacoidea ("true" parrots)
- ☀ Cacatuoidea (cockatoos)
- ☀ Strigopoidea (New Zealand parrots)

Parrots have a generally pantropical distribution with several species inhabiting temperate regions in the Southern Hemisphere, as well. The greatest diversity of parrots is in South America and Australasia.

The greatest number of world parrot species come from Australasia and South America.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birds\\_of\\_Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birds_of_Australia)





## Journal of a voyage to New South Wales : with sixty-five plates of non descript animals, birds, lizards, serpents, curious cones of trees and other natural productions

**Author:** [White, John, 1757 or 8-1832.](#)

**Responsibility:** by John White Esqre.

**Place:** London

**Publisher:** Printed for J. Debrett

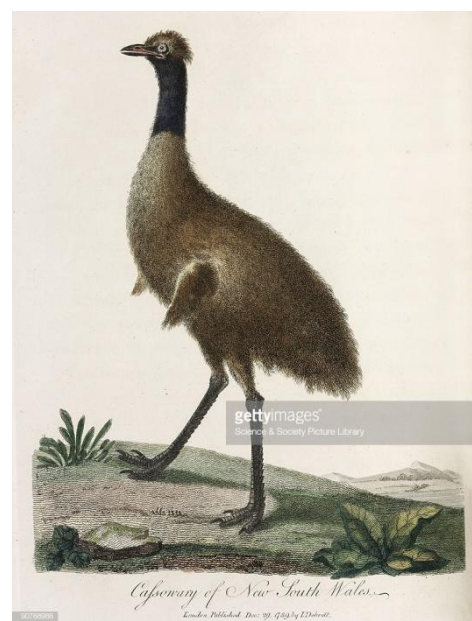
**Date Published:** 1790

**Description:** [18], 299, [36] p., 65 leaves of plates : ill. ; 32 cm. (4to)

**Australiana:** Australiana

**Notes:** Two variant issues of this work exist, cf. Ferguson : Bibliography of Australia, v. 1. Some copies have coloured plates. Engraved title-page. Index. Provenance (RGS copy): York Gate Library.

**Summary:** The plates in this book were drawn in England from specimens sent back by White in November 1788, only ten months after he arrived with the First Fleet as surgeon general. This is one of the rare copies with hand-coloured plates. Note Page 248: 'Blue frogs'. The frogs were not in fact blue - it was the preserving fluid that changed the frogs' green colour to blue on the way back to England. --RGSSA catalogue *Terra Cognita*, 2008





## Birds of New Holland with their natural history

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Author:</b>         | <a href="#">Lewin, J. W. (John William), 1770-1819.</a>   |
| <b>Responsibility:</b> | collected, engraved and faithfully painted after nature by John William Lewin                   |
| <b>Place:</b>          | London  |
| <b>Publisher:</b>      | Printed for the author and published by J. White and S. Bagster, the letter-press by T. Bensley |
| <b>Date Published:</b> | 1808  |
| <b>Description:</b>    | 22 p., 18 leaves of plates : col. ill. ; 39 cm.   |
| <b>Provenance:</b>     | York Gate Library   |
| <b>Call Number:</b>    | Rare Book Room (RGS) 598.0994 L672 c++  |
| <b>Subject:</b>        | <a href="#">Lewin, J. W. (John William), 1770-1819</a>  |
| <b>Australiana:</b>    | Australiana   |
| <b>Notes:</b>          | Title page says 'Vol. 1'. Provenance: York Gate Library.  |

**Summary:** One of six surviving copies of the first book solely on Australian birds. The 67 copies destined for Australia appear to have been lost. The York Gate Library acquired the copy which belonged to Lewin's patron, Lady Arden. (Acquired post-1886: the item is not listed in the 1886 York Gate catalogue.) Lady Arden is reportedly a grandmother of Matthew Flinders through his father's second marriage?

The Society has a manuscript, researched by Ms Mander Jones, Mitchell Librarian, of John Lewin's artistic activities including the accidental destruction of many of these volumes. rgpam 598.09944 L672.M b - circa 1953.

## On a new genus in the family of Corvidae

**Author:** [Gould, John, 1804-1881.](#)

**Responsibility:** by Mr. John Gould

**Corporate Author:** Zoological Society of London

**Place:** [London

**Publisher:** Zoological Society

**Date Published:** 1833

**Description:** 87-90 p., [1] leaf plate : col. ill. ; 32 cm.

**Provenance:** York Gate Library

**Call Number:** rgsp 598.2 G697 1833 c

**Subject:** [Birds--Identification](#)

**Australiana:** Australiana

**Notes:** Provenance: York Gate Library. Caption title. From the Transactions of the Zoological Society of London, vol. 1, [1833] "Read May 14, 1833."  
*Inscribed with the compliments of the Author : Elizabeth Gould's original colouring we assume.*



These original examples were sent to prospective subscribing customers.

**Icones avium, or, Figures and descriptions of new and interesting species of birds from various parts of the globe**  
**Icones avium**  
**Figures and descriptions of new and interesting species of birds from various parts of the globe**

**Author:** [Gould, John, 1804-1881.](#)

**Responsibility:** by John Gould ; forming a supplement to his previous works

**Place:** London

**Publisher:** printed by Richard and John E. Taylor : published by the author

**Date Published:** 1837-1838

**Description:** 2 pts. in 1 v., [18] leaves of plates (1 folded) : col. ill. ; 54 cm.

**Provenance:** York Gate Library

**Call Number:** rgsp 598.2 G697 1837-1838 d

**Subject:** [Birds--Pictorial works](#)

**Subject Refs:** Pictures Illustrations

**Notes:** Provenance (RGS copy): York Gate Library.

John Gould (1804-1881), by Thomas Herbert Maguire, 1849?

*National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an9547887*



## The birds of Australia

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Author:         | <a href="#">Gould, John, 1804-1881.</a>  |
| Responsibility: | by John Gould  |
| Place:          | London   |
| Publisher:      | Published by the author  |
| Date Published: | 1848 (London : Printed by Richard and John E. Taylor)  |
| Description:    | 7 v. ([xviii], v-cii, [602] leaves of col. plates) : chiefly col. ill. ; 55 cm.+ 1 supplement.   |
| Provenance:     | York Gate Library  |
| Call Number:    | Rare Book Room (RGS) 598.2994 G697 d   |
| Subject:        | <a href="#">Birds--Australia--Pictorial works</a>  |
| Subject Refs:   | Pictures Illustrations   |
| Australiana:    | Australiana  |
| Notes:          | Includes index [vii] "Table of the range or distribution of the species" --p. [ciii] "In seven volumes" Supplement published 1869. Dedication to Queen Victoria p. [iii] Originally issued in 36 pts. Ferguson, 4773. Ferguson, 100032a (Supplement) Provenance (RGS copy): York Gate Library. |



' the Gouldian grass finch (*Poephila gouldiae*). These birds are trapped by both residents and dealers, and thousands are annually exported to Australian and foreign markets. '

**[EXPEDITION OF EXPLORATION IN NORTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA.;**  
BY;

HERBERT BASEDOW, M.A., M.D., B.Sc., F.G.S., ETC •  
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL. SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA, SOUTH  
AUSTRALIAN BRANCH VOL. XVIII., SESSION 1916-1917.]



## Handbook to The birds of Australia

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Author:         | <a href="#">Gould, John, 1804-1881.</a>                   |
| Responsibility: | by John Gould   |
| Place:          | London  |
| Publisher:      | J. Gould  |
| Date Published: | 1865  |
| Description:    | 2 v. ; 25 cm.   |
| Provenance:     | York Gate Library   |
| Call Number:    | rgsp 598.0994 G697 1865                                   |
| Australiana:    | Australiana   |
| Notes:          | Includes index. Provenance (RGS copy): York Gate Library. |

*'A naturalist who visited South Australia in its infancy was John Gould, 'The Bird Man'. He came to South Australia in 1839 to collect birds. He stayed only a few months and was probably the first naturalist of note to reside in South Australia. He was obsessed with his vast collection of birds and had no time for insects unfortunately. Charles Wilson does not mention him. It is likely that Charles in 1839 was helping his family settle into their home on the banks of the River Torrens.'*

*South Australian Geographical Journal*, vol. 1 03, 2004, pp. 15-24. **[Some early reports of insects in Australia: with particular reference to South Australia and the work of Charles Algernon Wilson, Adelaide's first entomologist.**

JOHN G. WILSON]

Adelaide 'Parakeet' Rosella



## The birds of Australia, comprising three hundred full-page illustrations : with a descriptive account of the life and characteristic habits of over seven hundred species

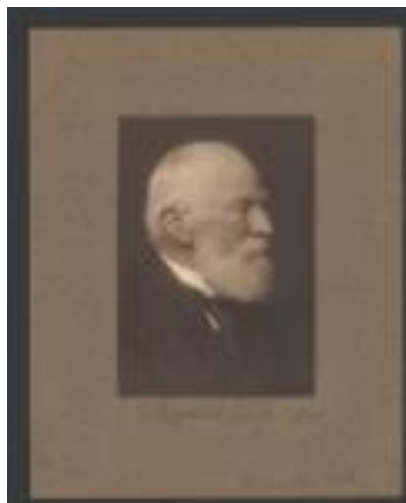
- Author:** [Broinowski, Gracius J. \(Gracius Joseph\), 1837-1913.](#)  
[Broinowski, R. A. \(Ass.\)](#)
- Responsibility:** by Gracius J. Broinowski
- Place:** Melbourne & Sydney
- Publisher:** Published by Charles Stuart & Co
- Date Published:** 1887-1891
- Description:** 6 v. [bd. in 3] : ill. in col. ; 37 cm.
- Call Number:** rgsp 598.2994 B866 c
- Subject:** [Birds--Australia](#)
- Contents:** V.1. Pts 1-7 -- v.2. Pts 1-7 -- v.3. Pts 1-6 -- v.4. Pts 1-6 -- v.5. Pts 1-6 -- v.6. Pts 1-6
- Australiana:** Australiana
- Notes:** Ferguson 7458. Originally issued in parts to subscribers, 1887-1891.  
Spine title (RGS copy): The birds of Australia. Broinowski.

Gracius Joseph Broinowski - Artist

An Australian artist and ornithologist. He was born at the village of Walichnowy in central Poland, the son of a landowner and military officer. He studied languages, classics and art at Munich University. Wikipedia

Born: 7 March 1837, Walichnowy, Poland  
Died: 11 April 1913, Sydney  
Education: Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

*Gracius Joseph Broinowski circa 1913 NLA collection*





**Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc.**

**Email: [library@rgssa.org.au](mailto:library@rgssa.org.au)**

**Phone: 61 8 82077266**

**Web site: [www.rgssa.org.au](http://www.rgssa.org.au)**

Many books manuscripts and periodicals catalogued at:

**<http://www.rgssa.org.au/Catalogue.htm>**

