

For ornithological interest,

The most marked peculiarity is in the length of the tails, many species being wonderfully provided in that respect, even to the extent of <sup>of twice</sup> their own length as in the Whiskered birds, but there is nothing in general that would attract whose help so much as the Swarms of ~~the~~ Vultures, or As vultures which are seen at times collected round the carcasses of Cattle & horses. Sandpipers are common enough, and a few terns flower, much like the Crocodile Bird of Egypt, may be both seen & heard in most localities. Shallows are as common as at home, though many kinds were strange to me, and Swifts & Martins also abound. Great flocks of Pratincoles may be seen in many parts of the Eastern District, much resembling small Catterals at first sight, these are all common on the open field of both provinces where also may be <sup>noticed</sup> seen the Hoary Dickcissel or little bustard (nearly identical with our own Stone Curlew), the brilliant Black & yellow of the Loxia, and the Sombre Crested & long tail

of the small mouse birds which throng the forest & the Mimosa bushes. Here too may be seen the Stated Secretary Bird on his march after snakes, and the Wary Plover shows open off in his strongly contrasting white & brown, while the Gnatcatcher wheels overhead, and the many varieties of the Thrush tribe hold their hole out from the topmost sprays of the Aloe.

From the river sides the huge Lopida Gigantea, the noblest of all the Kingfishers, takes his chosen flights, and the even more beautiful "Bicincta", spotted with black & white, watches from the willow stumps. The Crested Hoopoe lives overhead, and below in the shallows is wading the Common Heron, and the Tufted Umbra, with his strong & powerful bill for which no frog or Platana was ever known to escape.

The Forests perhaps are more rich in birds than the Moorlands though they are seldom seen. No one however who has <sup>watched</sup> seen the dazzling brilliance of the Golden Cuckoo reflected in the water, and the lustrous crimson of the long feathers of the Toucan <sup>at</sup> ~~the~~ rustling from bough to bough will dispute my assertion. Here too lives the Wary breasted Trogon, a bird

So beautiful that Le Vaillant named it after his ~~Hol~~  
 Hollander <sup>lover</sup> "Ravina"; and the King Hunter or  
 Akaleyon, a Kingfisher in all but habits, sits quietly in  
 the shade of the Pompanites. At times the strange  
 mocking laugh of the Promerops, draws attention to his  
 metallic plumage and Curved crimson bill, and  
 then a flight of black Buceros or Hornbills leads the eye  
 to when the Crimson Crested Woodpecker are tapping  
 the boughs of some old yellow wood tree.

The Krysa marshes are even more interest<sup>3</sup>  
 than the forest, for there live the vast families of Waders  
 and other water birds which find food & shelter in the  
 level covered swamps & marshy islets of the Estuary,

Immense flocks of Curlews darken the mud banks at  
 low water and fill the air with their doleful cries. Lines  
 of Snow White Pelicans and at times the reddish Crimson  
 of the flamingo extend along the shores or rest on the water  
 covered rocks of the haven. During the winter months, Terns  
 and Gulls, Wimbrels and wild Geese ~~water~~ flocks thrutter  
 in countless myriads, while Herons, Bitterns, Cranes,  
Storks, Divers, and the thousand varieties of Sandpiper

Snipe, Gallinule, and wild Duck make the numbers  
 lessened with their clamour. But the strangest bird of  
 all haunts these recesses. "The Plover Aubiniga. With  
 its enormously long beak, dusky black head & ludicrously  
 hunched body making every one laugh & wonder who sees  
 it. It is a wader and only when driven, swims, but  
 on those occasions its movements are truly wonderful,  
 and when it is seen gliding from under the seaweeds  
 with their long pendant nests of the Phalarope or wader  
 bird overhead, it may well be mistaken for a water snake.  
 I have seen two varieties, one the size of  
 a Common Bittern, the other with a body  
 no larger than that of a Thrush.



Leaving the Forest for the bush lands  
 and Harbours of Beaufort & the Bluffant's River, we  
 come to the pond Country of the Ostrich which is abundant  
 also in Calidon and even near Capetown, and too well  
 known for further mention. Here also we find the various  
 kinds of Coran or Horan, a fine species of game  
 Bird much like a large grouse in general appearance.  
 I have seen two kinds only but seen of as many as six.

and more than one variety of Pterocles, or Sand grouse as they are called in Egypt where they swarm, and when flying rapidly in dense flocks would look much like enormous Swifts, so long and sharply pointed are their wings. Here they are known as "The Hamasee partridge."

While on this subject I must mention the Cape Pheasant and the two kinds of partridge which are very generally distributed throughout South Africa. I am of opinion they are all partridges and that the former is merely called a Pheasant from its habits of roosting in trees. It is a shy and plainly plumaged bird but affords good sport and a famous addition to the larder.

of partridges, one is known as "The Redwing" the other "The Grey", and both good sport & good eating. which please I can give also to the Quail which abound all over the Country in the summer months, and the great Bustard or Plover, before mentioned. (the Capensis.)

Leaving Kaffirland, we come to the finer kinds of Whidah bird, of which take "vidua Paradisaea" with its floppy black tail streamers and rich orange collar, and "vidua Rubitorques", with its flowing scarlet throat, are

The most noticeable, they are as common as sparrows  
 as long and most destructive in the Breckia Valley  
 though it is a pretty sight to see a flock of them with  
 their joyous notes pattering in the wind, the long  
 tail feathers seemingly most troublesome and un-  
 manageable. &

We are now in the region of the Cranes, &  
 first of all come the indiscribably peaceful and  
 beautiful kind called after Lord Teby "the Stanley  
Crane". The plumage is a pale lavender grey with white  
 checks and long black wing coverts. The wing be-  
 hind until they sing with the tail. These feathers  
 are the favorite decoration of the Gulls and  
 now behind the legs like horns.

I have frequently walked for miles along side  
 of these peaceful and tame birds which appear to feel  
 no apprehension and allow anyone to approach within  
 a few yards. Next comes the "Kaffir" or "Balearia  
Crane" less peaceful but more familiarly disposed in his  
 coat of blue and purple, and his strange crest of grey  
 bristles. He is too well known in private collections  
 for further description,



and the great Laurel Bird or red legged Stork has been mentioned fully in page 54 of this book. They are more abundant this year than has ever been known, indeed in general I am told they are extremely rare.

I must now mention one of the most conspicuous birds of the Eastern Province viz. the green Sparrow, which haunts the cattle pastures and woodlands in great numbers, and the first sight of a flock of these superb creatures with their glowing iridescent green and purple plumage, and bright yellow eyes, is a thing to remember. The tribe "Lamprotonis," is a large one and hardly all equally magnificently attired, the one in question is called "L. habirofi" by Le Vaillant and he includes five or six others beyond the Orange River which I have not seen.

I will close my history with a list of the Sugar birds which I have seen and which are all magnificently beautiful. The tribe is known as "Hastarini" by Illiger, "Cinnyris" by Cuvier, and <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ stronger legged and weaker winged than the Humming-birds, so have they the almost insect like power of

loving which struck me so much in the latter  
tribe of Birds.

Heteronia Chalybeia (Linn) and "H-Apra", the Lucien  
à plaston rouge of Le Baillet, are both <sup>positive</sup> Crimson and  
blue Colored, with rusty green plustering on the head  
and neck.

Heteronia Collaris, has an <sup>positive</sup> orange, and steel metallic  
gorget with the green.

Heteronia farnosa, or the Malachite Punbird, is en-  
tirely green with <sup>long</sup> tail feathers and a yellow tuft  
under each wing, this is the Commonest of all.

Heteronia Amethystina, the loveliest of all, is of a  
velvety black with a metallic blue Crown, and purple  
plustering shoulders. white

Meliphaga Cope is as large as a lark, of a dull grey hue.  
and removable only for its flowing and almost pre-  
posterior tail.

I have no space for the many curious and beautiful  
flycatchers which abound in most parts of the Colony.  
one however I must make mention of as I think it  
one of the most attractive birds I have ever seen.



The Muscivora Rufiventris of Swainson, here known as the Paradise Flycatcher, its plumage is of two colours, a rich purple grey or slate, and a dull red, and its crest and long tail feathers make it most conspicuous in the bush or field. The tribe "Troglodytes" (Swain) is also as pretty as common, and its green back and bright white legs make it one of the first noticed on landing. It is intermediate between Warblers and Titmice.

The curious tribe of Coraciidae here called Key Long is both common but most interesting. I have only seen one, the "Centropus Senegalensis" (?) but the singularly rigid, almost brittle nature of the head & neck feathers make it one of my especial favourites. They are the first Cousins of the Cuckoos.

The last mentioned also deserve more especial <sup>notice</sup> for as they attain their greatest perfection in South Africa, first of all comes the marvel of the Forests; the gorgeous "Chalcophaps Indica", which literally dazzles the eye by its radiant metallic green & gold. Superb as the Cock bird is I prefer to them in its scale common of grey feathers edged with iridescent green. After this comes the Trichoceros called after Le Vallant's faithful illustration "C. Klappi". This

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