

Gecko and honeyeater. Qd. Nat. 17:114.

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TORRES STRAIT PIGEONS

During a recent trip by sea which covered the eastern coastline from Brisbane to Cape York, then into the Gulf to Weipa, and back to Thursday I. and adjacent islands, the Torres Strait Pigeons (*Myristicivora spilorrhoea*) were seen in thousands. They were first met at St. Bee's I., roughly off Mackay, flying from island to mainland and back. When in flight, they seem to keep a very straight course as if bent on some pre-arranged spot of importance for landing, and pack in tight formation, averaging four to six in a group.

At Cairns I observed these birds in captivity. They can outdo any Muscovy Ducks in gorging themselves with fruit, especially lumps of pawpaw.

Further north, at Portland Roads, the few trees on the hill close to the wharf seemed to be a camping place for them, as they were noticed landing there at dusk, and were heard easily from the ship for about half-an-hour after dark.

Around Cape York to Weipa and back to Thursday I., their numbers did not seem to diminish. This is a protected bird; if we keep it so, I believe there will be Torres Strait Pigeons for a long time to come.

—C. KUBLER.

GECKO AND HONEYEATER

One day in March a Lewin Honeyeater (*Meliphaga lewini*) flew into my bedroom at Camp Mountain. This has a sloping ceiling with one wall 12 feet high, in a dark upper corner of which lives a Robust Gecko (*Oedura robusta*). The bird, avoiding my attempts to catch it, clung to a groove high on this wall, maintaining its position by fluttering its outspread wings against the wall in a movement reminiscent of a Granny's Cloak Moth (*Sericea spectans*). While it was doing this the gecko, which had been watching alertly, darted across and snapped at its wing. Geckos feed on insects and spiders and, though this one may have been defending its territory from an intruder, it seems more likely that its attack was a reaction to the moth-like movements of the bird.

—E. N. MARKS.

REVIEW

Geological Excursions in South-east Queensland. By N. C. Stevens. 52 pages, with 14 geological maps and 3 tables. (University of Queensland Press), 18s.

Geologists in and near Brisbane are exceptionally fortunate in the wide variety of rocks and structures within their reach, even in the heart of the city. Igneous rocks, plutonic, intrusive, and volcanic, acid, intermediate, and basic, and of differing ages, sedimentary rocks both freshwater and marine, some fossiliferous, from palaeozoic to recent, and a variety of more or less metamorphosed sediments all occur. There are faults and folds and unconformities and even a mud spring.

Our good fortune is now added to by this new publication which gives a point-to-point description of the routes travelled in some sixteen excursions, accompanied by very satisfactory maps.

The book apparently is not intended as a comprehensive account of the geology of the area, and does not discuss the development of the land forms which make a big part of the interest for many excur-

sionists, whether geologists or geographers. It will nevertheless be of great help to all field workers in areas covered, whether they be amateur, student, or professional geologists.

The geologist is of course concerned with the changes in the earth's surface. Who should be concerned in changes in names for the same rocks? What, for instance, is meant by hornfels? It does not seem here to agree with old definitions. When is a chert or quartzite to be called a hornfels, and vice versa? It is noted too that the spelling of fel(d)spar is with the d. The spelling of this was the subject of much discussion in "Nature" about 50 years ago. The general conclusion was that it was equally correct both ways and that it was better to drop the unnecessary d. British (and Australian) publications for the last hundred years have dropped the d. Why re-introduce it (if we ever had it)? Certainly not for economy, or is it under the American spell? It scarcely matters a "d" in any case.

—E. O. M.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1963-64

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Council submits the 58th Annual Report.

Meetings: There were 10 meetings, 13 excursions, and 10 Council meetings during the year.

Council Meetings: Attendance at Council meetings was as follows:—Miss A. Gillies, Dr. E. N. Marks, 10; Mrs. W. Bristow, Messrs. L. S. Smith, C. Hembrow and K. Williams, Misses M. Hawken and P. Baxter, 9; Mr. F. S. Colliver, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. McKenzie, 8; Mr. S. L. Everist, 7; Mr. E. J. Smith, Dr. F. W. Whitehouse, 6.

Evening Meetings: Average attendance was 55. The August meeting was best attended when 79 were present.

Talks were given by Dr. F. W. Whitehouse (Presidential Address—Sediments Forming), Mr. A. H. Chisholm (C. T. White Memorial Lecture—J. R. Elsey, Surgeon, Naturalist, Explorer), Drs. F. W. Whitehouse and S. T. Blake (Leichhardt Memorial Meeting—the former spoke on Leichhardt's work as an explorer and geologist, the latter dealt with his botanical contributions), Mr. K. A. W. Williams (A Collecting Trip to western and north Queensland), Mr. R. O'Neill (Semi-precious and Ornamental Stones), Mr. A. P. Dodd (An Impression of New Guinea), Dr. R. H. Wharton (Animals Associated with Filariasis in Malaya), and Mr. J. T. Woods (Geological Aspects of the Cooktown Hinterland). At the annual wildflower evening, flowers from "Myali Park", Glenmorgan, the Granite Belt, the Capalaba-Slacks Creek area and from quite a number of local gardens were displayed and colour transparencies of wildflowers were shown by five club members. At the April meeting reports and exhibits from the Easter camp were received and colour transparencies taken during the trip were shown. Twenty-seven members tabled exhibits at meetings during the year.

Excursions: Eight full-day trips were held during the year, attendances averaging 77 with a record of 94 at the outing to the Dinmore fossil beds in July. Other outings were to Camp Mt. and the Samford Bora Ring, Helidon Hills for wildflowers, Mt. Mitchell, Diana's Bath at Mt. Byron, Closeburn, Coochiemudlo and Mt. Cordeaux.