

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

JOHN GOULD

Papers, 1835-76

Reel M725-27

**Balfour and Newton Libraries
Department of Zoology
University of Cambridge
Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1970

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Gould (1804-1881) was born in Lyme Regis, Dorset. He first worked with his father as a gardener and later at the Royal Gardens at Windsor. In 1824 he set up in business as a taxidermist and in 1827 joined the staff of the Zoological Society of London as Curator and Preserver. He married Elizabeth Coxen, a talented artist, in 1829.

In 1831-32 Gould published in twenty monthly parts *A Century of Birds from the Himalaya Mountains*, illustrated by his wife. It was followed by *Birds of Europe*, in five volumes. He brothers-in-law, Charles and Stephen Coxon, lived in New South Wales and sent him specimens of Australian birds. They aroused his interest in Australian birds and he resolved to make an expedition to Australia. Accompanied by his wife, son, two servants and a collector, John Gilbert, he arrived in Hobart in September 1838. After exploring Van Diemen's Land and the islands of Bass Strait, Gould spent most of his time in New South Wales and South Australia, while Gilbert collected birds in Western Australia. In New South Wales Gould was based mainly at the Coxen property at Yarrundi in the Hunter Valley. He and his party left Australia in May 1840. The first part of *Birds of Australia* appeared in December 1840. This celebrated work, totalling 36 parts bound in seven folio volumes and with 681 colour plates, was completed in 1848. Many of the drawings were the work of Elizabeth Gould, but after her death in 1841 other artists were employed.

Gould retained a strong interest in Australia and kept in touch with John Gilbert, Charles Sturt and other explorers and naturalists. In 1854-63 he produced in three volumes *The Mammals of Australia* and in 1865 *Handbook to the Birds of Australia*. He was also the author of *The Birds of Asia* (7 volumes) and *The birds of Great Britain* (5 volumes). Gould has often been described as the greatest figure in bird illustration after John James Audubon.

Note: Another large collection of papers of John Gould are held in the Natural History Museum in London (formerly the British Museum (Natural History)). Selections from this collection were also filmed by the Australian Joint Copying Project (reels M2888-902).

JOHN GOULD

Balfour and Newton Library, University of Cambridge

Reel M725

1. Manuscript notes and sketches for Gould's *Birds of Australia*

The collection comprises folders containing notes by Gould, usually written on double sheets, with loose sheets or notes inserted. At the top of the first sheet there is often a drawing of a bird's head and below in the margin are headings such as the Latin name, English name and locality inhabited, with notes beside them. Longer notes follow, sometimes on the inside pages, sometimes on loose sheets, and they occasionally contain rough sketches. Each folder contains notes on several genera and species. The name of the order, tribe and genera are written on the outside of the folder in the hand of Edward Prince, Gould's secretary.

1.a Order: Grallatores (wading birds)

Genera:

Erythrogonys, Pelidna, Actites, Calidris, Strepsilas, Scolopax, Rhynchaea

Porphyrio, Tribonyx, Gallinula, Fulica, Crex, Rallus, Para, Zapornia

Apteryx, Odicnemus, Haematopus, Glaveola, Eudromius, Lobivanellus, Sarciphorus, Charadrius, Squatarola, Agialitis

Nycticorax, Botaurus, Ardeola, Platalea, Ibis, Numenius

Grus, Mycteria, Ardea, Herodias, Dromaius

Cladorhynchus, Himantopus, Recurvirostra, Limosa, Terekia, Totanus

1.b Order: Dentirostres (perching birds)

Genera:

Zosterops, Psilopus

Rhipidura, Seisura, Myiagra, Piezhorynchus, Microeca, Monarcha

Epthianiura, Sericornis, Origma, Pyrrholaimus, Anthus, Calamanthus, Cincloramphus, Mirafra

Amytis, Dasyornis, Megalurus, Cysticola, Calamoherpa, Acanthiza, Xeronphila

1.c Order: Natatopes (sea birds)

Genera:

Phalacrocorax, Plotus, Tachypetes, Sula, Pelecanus

Larus, Xema, Lestris, Phaeton, Sterna

Procellaria, Daption

Diomedea

Prion, Puffinus, Puffinaria, Thalassidroma

Cygnus, Anseranus, Sarkidiornis, Leptotarsus, Dendrocygna, Nattapus, Cereopsis, Tadorna, Casarka, Bernicla

Pygoscelis, Aptenodytes, Spheniscus, Eudyptes

Biziura, Erismatura, Anas, Querquedula, Nyroca, Rhynchaspis, Malacorhynchus, Podiceps

Reel M726

1d Order: Rasores (scratching birds)

Genera:

Lopholaimas, Columba, Petrophassa, Phaps

1e Order: Raptores (birds of prey)

Genera:

Aquila, Ichthyiaetus, Haliaetus, Pandion. Falco, Jeracidea, Cerchnes

Strix, Athene

1f Order: Inesores (perching or passerine birds) Tribe: Fissirostres (open bills)

Genera:

Caprimulgus, Eurostopodus, Podargus, Aegotheles, Eurystomus

Hirundo, Cotyle, Collocalia, Chaetura, Cypselus

Dacelo, Halcyon, Alcyone, Merops

lj Order: Inesores Tribe: Scansores (climbing birds)

Genera:

Eudynamys, Centropus, Scythrops, Cuculus, Chalcites

Climacteris, Ptiloris, Orthonyx, Sittella

1g Order: Insesores Tribe: Dentirostres (toothed bills)

Genera:

Cracticus, Gymnorhina, Grallina, Strepera

Campephaga, Graucalus, Symmorphus

Pitta, Merula, Mimeta, Sphecotheres, Oreocincla, Aplonis, Cinclosoma

Petroica, Eopsaltria, Drymodes

Colluricincla, Pachycephala

1h. Order: Insesores Tribe: Teniurostres (slender bills)

Genera:

Ptilotis, Myzomela, Acanthorhynchus

Meliphaga, Glyciphila

Plectorhamphus, Zanthomyza, Entomophila, Acanthagenys, Anthochaera, Tropicorhynchus, Poe Bird

Entomyza, Melithreptus, Myzantha, Manorhina

1i Order: Insesores Tribe: Conirostres (conical bills)

Genera:

Pardalotus, Dicaeum

Corvus, Chlamydera, Ptilonorhynchus, Neomorpha, Sericulus, Cororax, Struthidea, Pomatorhinus

Amadina, Estrela

1j Order: Insesores Tribe: Scansores (climbing birds)

Genera:

Euphema, Melopsittacus, Trichoglossus

Plyctolophus, Licmetes, Nestor, Calyptorhynchus, Corydon

Platycercus, Pezoporus, Nymphicus, Polyteles

Reel M727

2a Diagram, letters and sketches

Diagram showing bird courses.

Gould (London) to Sir William Jardine, 28 Sept. 1835: acknowledges payment; drawing of *hypsipetes ganeesa*; Col. William Sykes engaged to make plates for Gould's *Birds of Europe*; Gould's journey through Europe.

Gould (London) to Sir William Jardine, 3 Nov. 1837: despatch of zinc plates and chalks; visit to London of Prince of Musignano [Charles Bonaparte]; his plans to visit Scotland; Gould has collected many species of *caprimulgidae*; drawing of *apteryx* by Elizabeth Gould; purchase of birds from Van Diemen's Land.

Gould (London) to Sir William Jardine, 30 April 1838: preparations for journey to Australia; description of his cabin on the *Parsee*; his party on the voyage; plans to visit Van Diemen's Land in first instance.

Gould (Maitland, NSW) to Sir William Jardine, 28 Sept. 1839: collecting of birds in Van Diemen's Land, islands of Bass Strait and New South Wales; interest in quadrupeds; summary of his proceedings sent to Zoological Society; new discoveries of birds; journey with Charles Sturt into interior of South Australia; Lake Alexandrina; visit to Liverpool Ranges; brothers of Elizabeth Gould live in Hunter Valley.

Gould (London) to Sir William Jardine, 5 Jan. 1849 (?): acknowledges box of specimens; movements since leaving Edinburgh; mutual acquaintances.

[Sir William Jardine (1800-1874), 7th Baronet, was the editor of the 40 volumes of *The Naturalist's Library* (1833-43).]

Three sketches of nests, two dated December 1842, by G. Grey, reproduced in Gould's *Birds of Australia*, vol. 1.

Manuscript list of drawings of Australian plants, birds, animals and fishes collected and copied by Aylmer Lambert (1761-1842) and in the possession of Lord Derby. (18pp)

3 List of Australian birds

Notebook kept by Gould containing a general list of birds inhabiting Australia and the adjacent islands, with many ink and pencil annotations. (c. 50pp)

4 List of Swan River Birds

List in Gould's hand of Swan River birds, with many amendments and deletions. (4pp)

5 List of Australian birds

Notebook kept by Gould containing a general list of Australian birds, with many alterations and deletions. (20pp)

6 List of Australian birds

Notebook kept by Gould containing a general list of Australian birds, with many pencilled additions. (19pp)

7 Letters from Gould to Alfred Newton, 1856-61

Gould (London) to Alfred Newton, 1 Aug. 1856: return from lengthy tour in Norway; acknowledges birds in spirits; colouring of soft parts apt to fade.

Gould (London) to Alfred Newton, 8 Feb. 1859: thanks for birds; comparisons of specimens.

Gould (London) to Alfred Newton, 26 March [1859]: sends notes and drawing.

Gould (London) to Alfred Newton, 22 March 1861: requests Newton to send letters to Bedford Square and not Fitzroy Square. With a draft reply from Newton.

The ornithologist and zoologist Alfred Newton (1829-1907) entered Magdalene College, Cambridge, as an undergraduate in 1848 and remained there all his life. He was Professor of Comparative Anatomy at Cambridge University from 1866 to 1907.

8 Letters of Australian and Pacific interest in the correspondence of Alfred Newton

Trivet Allcock to Alfred Newton, 22 Feb. 1858: will advise Newton if he receives any notes or papers of Strange on *Birds of Australia*.

John Briggs (Swarkestone, Derbyshire) to Alfred Newton, 28 Dec. 1858: Lord Ferrers; ducks may have come from Melbourne.

Edwin Prince (London) to Alfred Newton, 30 Nov. 1865: sends vol. 2 of Gould's *Handbook to the birds of Australia*.

Osbert Salvin (Elmshurst) to Alfred Newton, 16 Nov. 1857: despatch of box of birds' eggs; John Wolley; Salvin's dislike of Philip Sclater; 'he is of the Gould genus'.

Philip Sclater (Hampshire) to Alfred Newton, 24 Dec. [1858]: Gould agrees to change of name for humming bird; publication matters.

Alfred Wallace (Dorking) to Alfred Newton, 23 July 1876: proposed address about zoology of islands; letters from Charles Darwin; reviews of Wallace's book; his move to Dorking.

Alfred Wallace (Grays, Essex) to Alfred Newton, 25 Aug. 1875: thanks for notes on his proof; woodcocks; Newton's article on migration; invitation from R. Cholmondeley to accompany him to Malay Archipelago; mysteries of classification.