

very abundant. These Fruit-bats appear on the wing in the early afternoon in full sunlight, and at the time of our visit were feeding on the bright red flowers of one of the indigenous trees. Flowers form an important proportion of the food of Fruit-bats. In New South Wales, at Botany Bay in May, numbers of Fruit-bats were to be seen feeding on the flowers of the gum-trees. The bats must probably often act as fertilizers, by carrying pollen from tree to tree, adherent to their fur.

As dusk comes on, the Fruit-bats on the wing become more and more plentiful. It is probably only those specially driven by hunger that come out before dusk. Besides these large bats, there are small Insectivorous bats in Tonga, which dart about amongst the cocoanut trees, but we obtained no specimens. The heavy flap flap of the Pteropus is as strongly contrasted with the rapid motion of the true bats, as is the flight of a goose with that of a swallow. There are plenty of horses and cattle in Tonga, and the high ground of Eua is occupied as a sheep run.

A small Heron (*Demiegretta sacra*) wades about on the coral reefs at Tonga, and catches small fish, and is also to be seen frequently inland all over the island. This bird changes its plumage from pure white to uniform grey, and all stages of parti-coloured plumage were to be seen during our visit. Contrary to the usual rule, the bird is white when young, and dark in the mature state. Hence the ancestors must have been white, and the race is assuming a darker plumage for protection.

In the groves, the most abundant bird is one about the size of a sparrow; brown with yellow wattles (*Ptilotis carunculata*). It has a sweet and very loud song, and fills the woods with its melody. A Kingfisher (*Halcyon sacra*) is constantly to be seen sitting on dead twigs, ready to dart on its prey. Amongst the cocoanut trees a beautiful little Swift (*Collocalia spodiopygia*), of the same genus as the species by which the edible birds' nests, the well known Chinese luxury, are made, and which is a Swift, and not a Swallow, as it is commonly called, skims about with a constant twittering. These Tree-swifts are especially abundant about the villages, though they nest in the crowns of the cocoanut palms.*

In the thickest masses of foliage, a most beautiful small Fruit Pigeon, of a bright green, with a patch of the purest purple on its head (*Ptilinopus porphyraceus*), is to be heard

* For an account of the nesting of *Collocalia*, see Bernstein, "On the genus *Collocalia*." *Acta Societatis Scientiarum Indo-Nederlandicæ*, Vol. II. For the nesting of the closely allied "Tree-swift," *Dendrochelidon*, see Bernstein, "Habits of Javan Birds," *Ibid.*, Vol. III.