

now saw for the first time many new species which are quite distinct from those previously met with. White and black cockatoos were abundant, and their loud screams, conspicuous colour, and pretty yellow crests rendered them a very important feature in the landscape. Besides these were white pigeons, beautiful coloured parrots and lories, thrushes, leatherheads, the gorgeous rifle bird, and some thirty or forty others. Amongst this strange lot were the mound-makers (*Megapodius Gouldii*), which are found here and in the surrounding islands. They are allied to the gallinaceous birds, but differing from them and from all others in never sitting on their eggs, which they bury in mounds of sand and rubbish, and leave to be hatched by the sun or by fermentation. Several of these birds were shot by our party, and all seemed to be characterised by very large feet and long curved claws, which probably enable them to scratch together all kinds of rubbish, dead leaves, sticks, stones, earth, rotten wood, &c., until they form a large mound, often 6 feet high and 12 feet across, in the middle of which they bury their eggs, which are of a brick-red colour, about the size of a swan's. A number of birds are supposed to join in making these mounds, and lay their eggs together; so that sometimes as many as forty or fifty are found on one mound. These nests are met with in the densest parts of the forests, and at first we were quite puzzled as to who could have gathered together these heaps of