

hit upon are easily shot. Several "Brush Turkeys" (*Talegalla Lathamii*), were shot during our stay at Somerset, and the huge mounds thrown up by them were common objects at the borders of the scrubs, but the season was not far enough advanced for them to have commenced laying eggs.

A brilliant Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) was common at Cape York, and was to be seen seated, as is the wont of Bee-eaters, on some dead branch, and darting thence from time to time after its prey. A little Ground Pigeon (*Geopelia*), not much bigger than a sparrow, was also abundant.

A species of Swallow-shrike (*Artamus leucopygialis*) was very common, sitting in small flocks in rows on wires stretched for drying clothes near one of the houses, just as swallows sit on telegraph wires in England. The birds made excursions after flies, flying just like swallows, and returned to their perching place. Those which I shot all had their feathers at the bases of their bills clogged with pollen from the flowers, in which no doubt they had been searching for insects; like some humming-birds, they must act as fertilizers, carrying pollen from one flower to another.

In all my excursions I was accompanied by Blacks. An encampment of natives lay at about half a mile from the shore; the camp was a small one, and composed of the remnants of three tribes. There were 21 natives in this camp when I visited it early one morning in search of a guide, before day-break, before the Blacks were awake. Of these 21, about six were adult males, one of whom was employed at the water police station during the day time; there were four boys of from ten to fourteen years, two young girls, two old women, two middle-aged women, and the remainder were young women.

One of the old women was the mother of Longway, who acted as my guide, and who had a son about ten years old. The Blacks were mostly of the Gudang tribe, a vocabulary of the language of which is given in the Appendix to MacGillivray's "Voyage of the 'Rattlesnake.'"\* The natives were in a lower condition than I had expected. Their camp consisted of an irregularly oval space concealed in the bushes, at some distance from one of the paths through the forest. In the centre were low heaps of wood ashes with fire-sticks smouldering on them. All around was a shallow groove or depression, caused partly by the constant lying and sitting of the Blacks in it, partly by the gradual accumulation of ashes inside, and the casting of these and other refuse immediately outside it. On the outer

\* For a further account of Cape York, see Jukes, "Voyage of the 'Fly.'"