

DISCUSSION

Gould (1841) first described the Black-breasted Buzzard from a dark plumaged bird; later Mathews (1915) discussed the different colour variations.

Slater (1972) illustrated two differently coloured plumages, which he designated as morphs as first noted by Mathews (1915). Morris (1976) also described the two different colour morphs but queried the significance of the light morph. Following these works, it has been generally accepted that there are two colour morphs (Readers Digest 1976; Pizzey and Doyle 1980; Cupper and Cupper 1981; Simpson and Day 1984).

However, Hollands (1984), following observation of Black-breasted Buzzards over several years, suggested that the light plumaged birds could be in immature plumage, with the dark plumage being that of the adult. Slater *et al.* (1986) also described the light birds as immature and dark birds as adult. The Slaters also introduced a third or red plumage, yet to be confirmed — that of the juvenile.

Assuming that the bird was in at least its first year plumage when taken into captivity, these observations show that the colour of the plumage changed abruptly from a pale phase to a dark phase in at least its fourth year. This supports Hollands' (1984) suggestion that the Black-breasted Buzzard changes from a light immature to a dark adult, and explains the sudden disappearance of the light phase birds which he noted, after a period of only a few years. This is in contrast to the Wedge-tailed Eagle in which the change to adult is very gradual.

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BOOK REVIEW

The Galah. Pauline Reilly (text) and Will Rolland (illustrations) 1991. Kangaroo Press Pty Ltd, Kenthurst, Australia. 32 pp., rrp \$6.95.

In 'The Galah', Pauline Reilly achieves a clear and concise text for young children, basing the little life history on information from Ian Rowley's study reviewed in *Corella* 14: 5.

Her account is attractively complemented by Will Rolland's pen and coloured pencil drawings which are simple in execution while faithfully alluding to the Australian landscape and the galah's characteristics. There is also attention to such details as eye colour, although Galah's juvenile plumage is rather bright. There is humour in the illustrations, particularly the ginger tabby's skulking attempt at ambush by a bore drain and in the reactions of various tenants of tree hollows to Galah and his mate

'The Galah' will appeal to children up to seven years, but should not be overlooked by older youngsters as a source of entertainment and information, or by adults for a 'quick fix' on the life history of this familiar species.

At \$6.95 the book is competitively priced in today's children's book market.

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