I Said Nothing: The Extinction of the Paradise Parrot
(Hachette Livre Australia)
Crew, Gary

Research Background

I Said Nothing is a 32 page illustrated book based on the extinction of the Paradise Parrot (Psephotus pulcherrimus) in 1927. Research for this non-fiction work included visits to the bird’s habitat in the Darling Downs and South Burnett Regions of Queensland. While very little is documented about this parrot, the Queensland based ornithologist, Alec Chisholm (who launched a search for the bird in 1945), provides significant documentation in Chisholm, A. Strange New World Angus and Robertson. Sydney. 1941.

Research Contribution

The innovation in this text was to take an issue from the Natural Sciences (the extinction of a species and its causes) and express that in such a way as to be accessible to readers between the ages of 10 – 15 years. While such topics appear in print, those works such as that of Chisholm (above) are expressed in adult terms that are too complex for young readers to fully appreciate.

Research Significance

I Said Nothing: The Extinction of the Paradise Parrot was awarded the Wilderness Award for Children’s Writing. 2004

Dr Gary Crew is four times winner of the Children’s Book Council of Australia Children’s Book of the Year Award - twice for his novels and twice for his illustrated books. Crew has also won the New South Wales Premier's Award for Children's Literature (the Patricia Wrightson Award), the Victorian Premier's Award for Children's Literature (The Alan Marshall Award) and been short listed for both the Queensland Premier's Award and the Western Australian Premier's Awards. Crew has been twice short listed for the Crime Writers of America Edgar Alan Poe Mystery Fiction Award.