

Description of a New Shrike-Robin.

BY D. LE SOUËF, C.M.Z.S., &c., MELBOURNE.

EOPSALTRIA JACKSONI, *sp. nov.*

Adult Male.—Total length, 5.5 to 5.7 inches; wing, 3.45 to 3.5; tail, 2.5 to 2.7; bill, 0.5. General colour above uniform dark olive-grey; rump and upper tail coverts rich golden-yellow, with the lower portions of the feathers just above washed with a yellow tinge; all under parts golden-yellow; throat white; a little dark shading in front of the eye; a narrow patch on the outer edge of the shoulder white; the outer edge of the upper portion of the primaries very slightly edged with grey, and the tips of the secondaries also finely edged, mostly on the outer edge, with light grey. On the under surface the base of the primaries is well marked with white, as well as a white patch on the under surface of the shoulder, separated by a dark band from the white on the under surface at the base of the secondaries. Tail dark olive-grey above, lighter shade below, the tips, except of the centre feather, being edged with white on their inner edges; in some specimens the white tips are absent from four of the centre feathers; bill and feet black.

Mr. R. Etheridge, Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney, kindly allowed me to compare my skins with Ramsay's type of *E. magnirostris* in the Museum; I did so in his presence, and also in that of Mr. A. F. Basset Hull. This bird differs from the type of *E. magnirostris*, obtained at Rockingham Bay, Queensland, in having a smaller beak, more white on the throat, and more yellow on the rump, the white on the shoulder not so distinct, primaries not tipped with ashy-white or nearly so distinctly edged with the same colour. The nest also varies, and the habitat of the bird is different, *E. chrysorrhous* being a scrub-loving bird and *E. jacksoni* being only found in open forest and scrub country at an elevation of between 3,000 and 5,000 feet.

The bird is named after Mr. Sid. W. Jackson, who obtained the specimens for Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, N.S.W. I append Mr. Jackson's field notes:—

"I first met with this Robin on 12th November, 1908, when travelling along the Herberton Range on my way to the Evelyn scrubs, and at an elevation of nearly 4,000 feet above sea level. The actions of this bird closely resembled those of *E. chrysorrhous*. Its home appears to be the true forest country, and not the dense scrubs. When flying the rich golden-yellow plumage on the rump is most conspicuous. When passing the face of a rocky mountain on the Herberton Range, I found a nest of this bird, close to the track; it was built on the horizontal limb of a rough-barked *Banksia* tree, at an elevation of 15 feet, and contained two young birds about three days old.

The nest was well made, but seemed smaller than that of *E. chrysorrhous*. At this part of the range the country was very open and dry, and at the same time exceedingly stony, and partly covered with heath and stunted timber, such as *Eucalyptus*, *Banksia*, *Casuarina*, *Melaleuca*, &c. These Robins appeared to be the only birds frequenting this particular part of the range. Driving on, I saw a pair of these birds feeding two young ones that had evidently just left the nest. Shortly after I found another nest, placed about 30 feet from the ground in the upright fork of a *Casuarina*, and it also contained two young birds. During my second visit to the Herberton Range, extending from 29th November to 1st December of the same year, I saw these birds again, but only in the open forest. I was fortunate in finding a nest containing two eggs on 9th December, the nest being situated in a *Casuarina* tree, about 20 feet from the ground, and within 6 feet of the nest of a Victoria Rifle-Bird. This nest and eggs were described in *The Emu*, viii. (June, 1909), pp. 284, 285, as belonging to *E. magnirostris*. I never heard the birds utter any note during my wanderings among them."

[I am indebted to my cousin, Mrs. Ellis Rowan, for the original painting of this new species. See Coloured Plate III.—D. LE S.]

Birds Observed between Kalgoorlie and Eucla, W.A.

BY CHAS. G. GIBSON, PERTH (W.A.)

IN order that these notes may be the better understood, a very brief general description of the country lying between Kalgoorlie and the South Australian border is necessary. The total direct distance between these two points is approximately 450 miles, and for our purpose this may be roughly subdivided as follows:—For the first 80 miles (from Kalgoorlie) the country consists of salmon-barked gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) and gimlet gum (*E. salubris*) forests, with occasional open salt-plains and blue bush plains, and here and there small patches of mulga (*Acacia*), this latter class of timber gradually replacing the salmon-barked gum and gimlet gum as we go north. East of the salmon-barked gum is a belt of spinifex country, roughly a hundred miles in width. This runs south to the coast and north indefinitely, rapidly widening in this direction; it is usually covered with a fairly dense growth of mallee—often of large size—with here and there small patches of salmon-barked and gimlet gums, with small salt and blue bush flats. The sand-hill country on the northern portion of this belt and around Queen Victoria Spring carries, in addition to the mallee, pines (*Callitris*), a few wattles and desert white gums (*Eucalyptus redunca*?), these latter often of fair size.



Eopsaltria jacksoni (Le Souëf).

About Half Natural Size.

(From drawing by ELLIS ROWAN.)



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