

Type in Western Australian Museum, Perth.

The bird above described was shot by me at Lake Yanchep, 35 miles north of Perth, during the last Christmas holidays. Whilst writing these notes I have before me skins of the Lake Yanchep bird, and of *M. gramineus*, from Victoria and from Mandurah estuary, which is situate some 40 miles south from Perth. Little difference exists between the Victorian and Mandurah skins. On the other hand, the difference between those skins and the Lake Yanchep skins is most marked. The latter is very much smaller, and in addition lacks the oily fulvous colour of the upper surface, sides, flanks, and tail coverts of the former, and in lieu of it has a dullish lustreless smoky-brown. Another point of difference is that the Lake Yanchep bird is striated from chin to abdomen as boldly as a *Calamanthus*. I shot four birds, and not any one of them exhibited any appreciable difference from the others. The estuary where the Mandurah bird was obtained is salt, and possesses extensive mud-flats covered with samphire. The water of Lake Yanchep is fresh, and heavily charged with carbonate of lime, the formation surrounding the lake being limestone. Is it not possible that the presence of the rich fulvous colour of the estuary bird is due to the mud-flats, and the absence of it in the Yanchep bird to the harsh and harder limestone water?

The notes of the new bird are two melancholy ones, resembling in sound the syllables "tee tee." In the protected area of the Swan River, at Perth, the local bird has three notes, "titty tee tee." The birds were numerous, but difficult to flush, owing to their secretive habits.

I assign to the new species the scientific name of *Megalurus striatus*, and the vernacular name of the Striated Grass-Bird.

Description of a New Acanthiza.

BY A. J. CAMPBELL.

ACANTHIZA MAGNIROSTRIS (Large-billed Tit), n. sp.

Upper surface olive-brown; forehead cinnamon-brown, each feather having a crescent-shaped mark of a brighter colour at the extremity, and tipped with dark brown; upper tail coverts reddish or rufous-brown; tail marked with a band of dark brown near the extremity; cheeks, throat, and chest whitish, each feather centred and edged with dark brown or black; rest of the under surface light olive-brown, darker on the flanks and under tail coverts; bill dark brown; feet brownish or fuscous. Length, 4.25; culmen, .45; wing, 2.0; tail, 1.6; tarsus, .7.

Acanthiza magnirostris has more of the black and white mottled under surface than *A. diemenensis*, and thus more re-

sembles *A. pusilla* in this respect, but may be easily separated from both these birds by the great size of its bill.

Four specimens (two being young) of the new species were collected by Mr. A. G. Campbell on King Island last November. For further remarks see his article, "The Birds of King Island," in this issue, page 207.

He has also brought under my notice another Tit, of which unfortunately he was only able to procure a single specimen—an adult, however. It differs from the three species of Tits before-mentioned by its more slender tarsi and wings, but conspicuously by the absence of the light crescent-shaped marks on the brownish (rufous-brown) feathers of the forehead, and by the white feathers of the cheeks, chest, &c., having the centre only black, and not also edged with that colour as in the other species. Length, 4.0; culmen, .3; wing, 2.1; tail, 1.6; tarsus, .85. By this diagnosis I strongly suspect the stranger to be a re-discovery of Gould's long-lost *Acanthiza ewingii* ("Birds of Australia," vol. iii., pl. 55). If not, and pending the receipt of more material, I venture to provisionally name the bird *A. rufifrons*, or the King Island Tit.

The Birds of King Island.

BY A. G. CAMPBELL.

KING Island, lying at the western end of Bass Strait, which separates Tasmania from the mainland of Australia, has always been of great interest to the biologist. A study of its life-forms has materially assisted in proving that the island State at no very remote period was of much greater area than it is at present, and, further, was actually connected with the mainland before the mighty forces of the ocean succeeded in opening up a strait along some weak spot. King Island is in area about 272,000 acres, 40 miles long by 16 miles at its widest part. Though only 50 miles separate the north point from Cape Otway on the mainland, and a similar distance the south point from the north-west of Tasmania, yet to the south are found several islands and rocks, and the straits between are very shallow, pointing to the fact that King Island was attached to Tasmania at a later period than to the mainland. In fact, the strait on the north undoubtedly marks the spot where the sea first broke in and commenced its work of severing Tasmania from Australia, for on the eastern side of Bass Strait, between Wilson Promontory and the north-east point of Tasmania, the continuous chain of islets, all built of a similar granitoid rock, proves that there a land bridge existed at a more recent date, when some of the higher animals were in existence.

The presence of the Emu and kangaroo in Tasmania can



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