

Three New Sub-Species of Birds.

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.R.S. (Ed.)

WHILE looking through the collection of skins in the possession of Mr. H. L. White, I noted the following new forms. The page number refers to my new "List of the Birds of Australia."

P. 182.—***Eopsaltria australis austina*.**

Differs from *E. a. australis* in having the head and back grey, the latter altogether lacking the greenish tinge; the under surface is very much paler.

Type.—Cobbora (Talbaagah River), New South Wales.

P. 215.—***Acanthiza nana dorotheæ*.**

Differs from *A. n. nana* in being much yellower on the under surface and lighter above. It is also longer in the wing.

Type.—Lithgow, New South Wales.

P. 219.—***Geobasileus reguloides tarana*.**

Differs from *G. r. reguloides* in having a light, not dark, buff rump. It is also lighter above.

Type.—Tarana, New South Wales.

Need for Bird Protection.

BY THOMAS N. STEPHENS (ADELAIDE).

ALLOW me to direct attention to two articles in the *Nineteenth Century* for February, 1914, on which these remarks are based, but every sentence of both articles is well worth reading. This subject, in the words of an American senator, is one "that ought to command the co-operation and support of every man in public life," and so strong has been that support in the United States that last year two measures of vast importance were swept through Congress on an irresistible tidal wave of insistent public sentiment. The first produced the Federal law protecting all migratory birds; the second freed the United States for ever from the shame and the horrors of the millinery trade in wild birds' plumage.

Among the world's 2,442 species of game birds the slaughter is enormous. Some idea of the extent may be obtained from the one fact alone that in October last 1,174 lots were offered at auction in London in one day. The "trade" said—"Let America refuse them; it will not save the birds or interfere with sales; we will still sell." But what was the result of that one day's sale? About one-third—368 lots—were withdrawn, owing to the action of the States, the lack of buyers, and the tremendous decline in prices. These withdrawn lots, the chief products of millinery slaughter, comprised nearly 90,000 skins, and, in addition, 2,494 ounces of Egret plumes, representing 14,964 birds. Among others there were 34,000 wing and tail feathers of the Hawk, 22,000 skins of Kingfishers, 17,000 wing and tail feathers



Mathews, Gregory Macalister. 1914. "Three New Sub-Species of Birds." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 14(1), 60–60.
<https://doi.org/10.1071/mu914060a>.

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