

Further Notes on Additions to the "H. L. White Collection."

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U., MELBOURNE.

(Continued from *Emu*, ante, p. 2.)

THERE is no abatement of Mr. H. L. White's enterprise to foster ornithological exploration. Last year he again commissioned Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock to visit the Dampier Archipelago, North-West Australia, and on the return journey to touch at Shark Bay district, including the historic island of Dirk Hartog.

The bird-skins collected are now in the "H. L. White Collection," National Museum, Melbourne, where, most fortunately, they can be examined by students. The specimens include a particularly fine series—indeed, the best extant—of the Black-and-White *Malurus*, from both Barrow and Dirk Hartog Islands—the only known habitats of these birds.

Mr. Whitlock's own account of the Dampier Archipelago appears in another part of this issue (pp. 240-253), while, regarding Dirk Hartog Island, he writes under date 16/11/18:—"I could not, for several reasons, remain on Dirk Hartog for any length of time, lack of communication with the mainland being one. I did not wish to be stranded there and miss the monthly boat going south. I was really too late for the best work when I landed on the island. The breeding season evidently commences there early—I should say about the end of June* in normal seasons.

"Dirk Hartog is clothed with innumerable bushes of many species. There is just room to walk around each clump, so you will easily realize it is a country requiring close and systematic search to do the thing thoroughly. Birds, for the most part, were in moult; they skulk under such circumstances.

"I saw one pair only of *Amytornis*, but, despite much time devoted, I could not get a shot. The strong winds are a difficulty in Shark Bay. They keep the climate wonderfully cool, but, once a bird takes to a big bush when the wind blows it is impossible to follow a bird with the eye.

"I worked the Peron Peninsula for three weeks, and secured *Malurus cyanotus*, two species of *Acanthiza*, &c., and fired at a venture at what I thought was an *Amytornis* just as it was disappearing into a bush, and was delighted to pick up a fine female. . . Shark Bay requires a whole season to work the district thoroughly, the areas to be examined are so extensive."

Mr. Thomas Carter, M.B.O.U., contributed a valuable article to *The Ibis* for October, 1917, on "The Birds of Dirk Hartog Island and Peron Peninsula, Shark Bay, Western Australia,"† the result of two trips—April and May, and from October, 1916,

* When Mr. Otto Lipfert visited Bernier and Dorre Islands, 1910, he found that the breeding season for the smaller birds had finished about the end of May.—*Vide Emu*, xii., p. 287.

† Briefly noticed in *Emu*, ante, p. 60.

to January, 1917. The trips will be memorable for the re-discovery of Quoy and Gaimard's two long-lost species, *Malurus leucopterus* and *Amytornis textilis*, and the discovery of several new sub-species. These are dealt with in my critical remarks which follow. Mr. Carter's field-notes are of a high order, after the style of his "Birds Occurring in the Region of the North-West Cape" (four parts), which appeared in *The Emu*, 1903, vol. iii.

[*Nomenclature according to the R.A.O.U. "Check-list" and Mathews's "List of the Birds of Australia"; colours after Ridgway's "Standards."*]

Zonifer pectoralis, Cuvier. Black-breasted Plover.

Z. tricolor gwendolenæ.

Two ♀♀ from Dirk Hartog. Regarding this widely-distributed endemic Plover, Mr. Mathews claims that there is a south-western race which possesses a "different-shaped (larger) wattle and narrower black band on breast" than the eastern bird, and gives a figure in his "Birds of Australia," iii., pl. 131. The bird is named in honour of Amy Gwendoline Carter, daughter of Mr. Thomas Carter, M.B.O.U., who has spent a lifetime amongst the birds of Western Australia and discovered many new species.

Mr. Carter observed this species on Dirk Hartog Island on several occasions, but did not obtain examples. The two birds that Mr. Whitlock secured have general coloration of the back buffy-brown, nearer the hue of typical eastern birds, while the dimensions (mm.)—length 285, wing 195, tarsus 48, culmen 25—are practically those given for *gwendolenæ*.

Geopelia humeralis, Temminck. Barred-shouldered Dove.

Chrysauchæna humeralis headlandi.

Two ♂♂, Barrow Island. Whitlock calls these "Mangrove-Doves." They are decidedly smaller in size and paler-coloured than typical birds from the East. Mathews's *headlandi* will distinguish the Western race.

Cerchneis (cenchroides) unicolor, Milligan. Western Kestrel.

One ♂, 1 ♀, Barrow Island. The male resembles *unicolor* (Milligan); the female resembles *milligani* (Mathews).

Cacatua (sanguinea) gymnopsis, Sclater. Bare-eyed Cockatoo.

Ducorpsius sanguineus westralensis.

Two ♀♀, Dampier Group. With more material and the examination of a larger series it is necessary to add to my former note (*Emu*, ante, p. 7). When I stated that the island bird was "whiter" I meant "less soiled" than was the plumage of north-west mainland specimens. The whitest (pure white) birds are from the Northern Territory. If Gould's *sanguinea* be from Port Essington, Mathews can hardly hope to sustain his *distinctus* from Alligator Creek, practically the Port Essington region (Arnhem Land).

A large series of this Cockatoo from Arnhem Land in the National Museum, Melbourne, shows that the general plumage

is *pure white* (*sanguinea*), while the material, including the Dampier specimens from N.W. Australia, in the "H. L. White Collection" all has a *light ivory-yellow* tone (? *gymnopsis*).

Chalcococcyx basalis, Horsfield. Narrow-billed Bronze-Cuckoo.
Neochalcites b. wyndhami.

One ♀, Barrow Island. Same as Cossack skin collected by Whitlock, 22/10/17. For Dirk Hartog Carter records *plagosus*, which separate species seems to favour more southern parts of the West.

Artamus leucogaster, Gould. White-rumped Wood-Swallow.
A. leucorhynchus harterti.

Two ♀♀, Barrow Island. Whitlock previously obtained a ♂ from Cossack. There is no appreciable difference in West from East birds.

Artamus cinereus, Gould. Grey-breasted Wood-Swallow.
Austrartamus melanops tregellasi.

One ♂, Dirk Hartog Island. Typical. For the last 75 years Gould's unsurpassable plate ("Birds of Australia," ii., No. 29) has existed over the name *Artamus cinereus* for this well-known species, with the following leading letterpress:—"Space between the bill and the eye, the fore part of the cheek, the chin, the upper and under tail coverts, jet black."

More recently Mathews (*Bull. B.O.C.*, xxvii., p. 100, 1911) re-describes the bird:—"Line over the forehead, lores, and a ring round the eyes, as well as the throat, rump, thighs, vent, and under tail coverts black, with the name *Austrartamus melanops tregellasi*."

Pœcilodryas (pulverulentus) cinereiceps, Hartert. Grey-headed Shrike-Robin.

Quoyornis leucurus cinereiceps.

A mature skin, but unsexed, from Cossack, which confirms the opinion (see *Emu*, ante, p. 7) that the two specimens previously collected by Whitlock were not adults, and that it is Hartert's *cinereiceps*. It has been found farther south, at North-West Cape, by Carter (*Emu*, iii., p. 91).

Melanodryas bicolor, Vigors and Horsfield. Hooded Robin.
M. cucullata westralensis.

One ♂, 2 ♀♀ (immature), Dirk Hartog Island. May be *westralensis* (Mathews), which differs from the more eastern race by "its smaller size." This also applies to *picata* (Gould). Wing of *westralensis*, 94 mm.; of *bicolor* (Victoria), 97 mm.; of *picata* (Northern Territory), 88 mm.

As Grant points out, the chief difference seems to be one of size, typical *bicolor* being distinctly largest.

Oreoica cristata, Lewin. Crested Bell-Bird.
O. c. westralensis.

One ♂ (immature), from Shark Bay, where it is numerous. Mr. Carter observed the insular bird of this species on Dirk Hartog

was altogether paler in colour, and named it *lloydi* (*Ibis*, 1917, p. 608). As various kinds of birds frequenting Kangaroo Island, off South Australia, are darker than those of the mainland generally, so it appears that some species found on Dirk Hartog Island, off the western coast, are much lighter in colour than those represented on the mainland opposite, notably, in addition to the Bell-Bird, the Emu-Wren, Scrub-Wren, Field-Wren, &c.

***Pachycephala melanura*, Gould. Black-tailed Thickhead.**

P. m. bynoei (Mathews, *A. A. R.*, iii., p. 137).

Two ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, Cossack. Whitlock had previously (1917) collected a mature female. The females have all the light yellow (lemon chrome) under tail coverts, which obviously separates them from those of *occidentalis* (Ramsay) in the south and from the true *melanura* in the north. The Cossack birds may even be considered a distinct species. However, Mathews has made it a sub-species of *melanura*, the females of which have, when mature, the full yellow breast of rich lemon chrome.

***Pachycephala lanioides*, Gould. White-bellied Thickhead.**

Alisterornis l. carnarvoni.

Two ♂♂, Cossack. For previous remarks on this fine species see *Emu*, ante, p. 7.

Gould originally procured a single male* of this Thickhead from the North-West Coast, remarking:—"It is a most robust and powerful bird, and may hereafter be made the type of a new genus." The new generic name, *Alisterornis*, has been proposed. Good; but suppose there be another Australian avine genus named *Alisteranus*, and yet another *Alisterus*? Are not these three similar names confusing?

On behalf of Mr. H. L. White I described the eggs (typical of the *Pachycephalæ*), giving copious and interesting field observations by the collector (Mr. F. L. Whitlock) in the mosquito-infested mangroves of Condon (see *Emu*, viii., p. 143). In the following volume of that journal (pl. vii.) will be found a most excellent photo-picture of the nest and eggs, by Mr. Sid. W. Jackson, R.A.O.U.

***Calamanthus campestris*, Gould. Field-Wren.**

Two ♂♂, 1 ♀, Dirk Hartog; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, mainland opposite. A useful series. Carter named the island form *hartogi* (*Bull. B.O.C.*, xxxvii., p. 6); but it answers to Mathews's *dorrei*, from the adjacent island of that name—"differs from *howei* (= *campestris* †) in having less red on the crown and being paler above" (*Nov. Zool.*, xviii., p. 337).

Mr. Carter likewise separated the mainland (Peron Peninsula) bird, naming it *peroni* (*Ibis*, 1917, p. 586). I think he will find,

* Mr. Robt. Hall, C.M.B.O.U., described the female from Derby, 1901, *Victorian Naturalist*, xviii., p. 30.

† *C. howei*, type locality Mallee, Vic., is well represented by Gould's figure of *campestris*, "Birds of Australia," iii., pl. 71.

on further examination, that it scarcely differs from *rubiginosus* (Campbell), his own discovery, some years ago, near Point Cloates, farther up the coast.

Ephthianura albifrons, Jardine and Selby. White-fronted Bush-Chat.

E. a. westralensis.

One ♂, adult, Dirk Hartog. Typical coloration, but slightly smaller in size. Wing 65 mm., tarsus 16 mm., as against an Eastern specimen—wing 69 mm., tarsus 18 mm. Carter observed both this species and *tricolor* (on one occasion) on the island.

Campephaga humeralis, Gould. White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater.

Lalage tricolor indistincta.

One ♂ (immature) from Barrow Island. As a sub-species, *indistincta* is not sufficiently convincing.

Eremiornis carteri, North. Desert-Bird.

E. c. assimilis.

One ♂, Barrow Island. With the seven skins (4 ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀) previously collected by Whitlock, there is a nice series of this rare and unique species. The insular specimens, compared with the mainland birds, appear smaller in size, have the bill larger, and have the head darker reddish-brown, while the whole plumage is slightly darker.

The first finding of the nest and eggs, new to science, is graphically related by the collector in another part of this issue; and the description of the nest and eggs, together with the description of those of the Black-and-White Wren of Barrow Island, both by Mr. H. L. White, will be found *ante*, pages 127, 128.

Acanthiza whitlocki, North. Whitlock Tit-Warbler.

A. albiventris whitlocki.

Two ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Shark Bay. Mr. Whitlock himself was the discoverer of this species.* When collecting for Mr. H. L. White in the East Murchison district he sent three skins, which Mr. White, in turn, forwarded to the Australian Museum (see *Vict. Nat.*, xxvi., p. 55, 1909). In addition to the technical characteristics, Mr. North reported that "*Acanthiza whitlocki*, of which two adult males and an adult female were obtained, is more nearly allied to *A. apicalis*. From that species, however, it may be distinguished by its greyish-brown instead of olive-brown upper parts, rendering the rufous-brown upper tail coverts more conspicuous by its purer white under parts and the broader black sub-terminal band on the tail."

The Shark Bay examples appear answerable to this description excepting that the tail feathers and edges of the primaries of some specimens are more inclined to be reddish.

* His own field notes and photo. of the nest appear in *Emu*, ix., p. 198.

Neither Carter nor Whitlock observed any kind of *Acanthiza* on Dirk Hartog Island.

Acanthiza morgani (tenuirostris), Mathews. Short-billed Tit-Warbler.

A. iredalei iredalei.

One ♂, 4 ♀♀, Shark Bay. Whitlock's industry has supplied material of another farthest-west *Acanthiza*—*morgani*—which Western and Southern species seems to stretch across the continent and joins with F. E. Wilson's *winiamida*, obtained in the Mallee district of Victoria (*Emu*, xvi., p. 169)—a darker-coloured race.

Both *A. whitlocki* and *A. morgani* were secured on the Peron Peninsula. Mr. Whitlock is of opinion that many species of birds found on the peninsula move to and from the south according to the season.

Sericornis maculata, Gould. Spotted Scrub-Wren.

Three ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, 1 unsexed, Dirk Hartog; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, the Peron (mainland). The western Scrub-Wren seems to have a wide range, but has not been recorded further north than the Shark Bay district, where naturally it is lighter-coloured than typical birds from the south-west forest country. There appears no difference in specimens from either Dirk Hartog Island, Bernier Island (next but one northward to Dirk Hartog), and the mainland.

Ogilvie-Grant, in *Bull. B.O.C.*, xxiii., p. 72, named the Bernier bird *balstoni*, which was figured in *The Ibis*, 1909, pl. 9, fig. 1, while Carter separates the Hartog bird, naming it after the locality—*hartogi* (*Bull. B.O.C.*, xxxvii., p. 6). It appears that Grant's name, *balstoni*, and description will amply serve to distinguish the *Sericornis* in Shark Bay region, including the islands thereabouts.

Malurus cyanotus, Gould. White-winged Wren-Warbler.

Hallornis leuconotus exsul.

Three ♂♂ (one immature), Peron Peninsula, Shark Bay. These additions bring the material available of this species from various parts of Australia up to thirty-three specimens. For previous remarks see *Emu*, xvii., p. 167.

In Mr. Carter's excellent article in *The Ibis* (page 593) he draws attention to Gould's plates of *M. lamberti* and *M. leucopterus* (i.e., *cyanotus*), the females of which have been transposed. I think what Mr. Carter desires to emphasize is that the female of *lamberti* does not sufficiently show the reddish-brown lores and mark round the eye, which distinguishing features are absent in *cyanotus* and in the true *leucopterus*. Gould's letterpress, however, correctly describes the birds.

Malurus assimilis, North. Purple-backed Wren-Warbler.

Leggeornis lamberti occidentalis.

Five ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Dirk Hartog and mainland (Peron Peninsula).

Previously (*Emu*, ante, p. 6) I mentioned that this extreme western race may be either Mathews's *mungi* or *occidentalis*. It is now stated to be the latter (see *Ibis*, 1917, p. 592). Specimens from Dirk Hartog and from the mainland do not differ; this was also observed by Carter, and is somewhat remarkable, seeing that Bernier birds (from next island but one to Dirk Hartog) are appreciably different, the male having a very distinct diva blue (darker on the cheeks), correctly shown in Grant's figure (*Ibis*, 1909, pl. ix., p. 676); while both male and female have darker blue tails than either Hartog or mainland birds.

Another fact: whereas *occidentalis* and *leucopterus* are found together on Hartog, *bernieri* is the sole *Malurus* on the island of that name.

Regarding Eastern and Western races of *assimilis*, Mathews says (*Nov. Zool.*, xviii., p. 360) that *occidentalis* combines the head coloration of *lamberti* with the back coloration of *assimilis*, to which may be added "lighter chestnut (Hay's russet) shoulders" of western birds. Another cross-check—typical *assimilis* has the forehead diva blue, similar to the Bernier bird, but has the shoulders darker chestnut (morocco red). See *Emu*, ii., pl. 10.

Malurus leucopterus, Quoy and Gaimard. Black-and-White Wren-Warbler.

Nesomalurus l. leucopterus.

Ten ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 not sexed, Dirk Hartog Island; and 6 ♂ (2 immature), Barrow Island. Adding to my former remarks (*Emu*, xvii., pp. 177, 178), and after examining an excellent series (total 27) of skins of the Black-and-White Wrens from both Barrow and Dirk Hartog Islands (W.A.), there appears evidence to admit of two "climatic or geographical races" for the following two principal reasons:—

Firstly, on a visual examination, the Barrow Island bird, *edouardi*, seems a trifle more robust than the type locality (Dirk Hartog) bird, *leucopterus*; while the Barrow male appears to possess more white on its wings. The male *leucopterus* has the darker blue tail (deep, dull violaceous blue), corresponding with the colour of that of the Blue-and-White Wren (*M. cyanotus*) of the mainland. The tail of *edouardi* is a more greyish-violaceous blue. On the other hand, the female of *edouardi* almost resembles the colour (fawn) of the female Blue-and-White mainland bird, while the female of *leucopterus* is lighter (drab).

It may be also mentioned that the feathers of the lower part of the tibia of the male *leucopterus* are dusky grey, as in *cyanotus*, while the whole tibia of *edouardi* is black.

Secondly, Mr. Whitlock's field testimony:—"After studying the male series of *M. edouardi* and *M. leucopterus*, I am prepared to admit that individuals of the latter have a tendency to exhibit blue feathers (not indigo blue, as in other species) on the breast. When these are present the tail is a much brighter blue than the ordinary black-breasted specimens. In *edouardi* I never detected

these blue feathers, in all cases the plumage being velvety-black and the tail a dull grey-blue. Possibly the Black-and-White Wrens on both islands have evolved, by isolation and climatic causes, from a Blue-and-White form. Barrow Island being the more isolated, it may be hazarded that *edouardi* is the older form, and has lost the tendency to exhibit blue feathers." *

The foregoing favours Mr. Mathews's contention that the two insular forms of the Black-and-White Wren would prove to be sub-specifically distinct, and the matter thus stands:—(1) Mr. Tom Carter has re-discovered Quoy and Gaimard's long-lost *M. leucopterus* on Dirk Hartog Island (see description by Mathews, *Austral Avian Record*, iii., pp. 86, 87, together with coloured figures of both sexes); and (2) that *M. edouardi* (Campbell), described previously (1901) in the *Victorian Naturalist* (xvii., p. 203), and again recently in *The Emu* (xvii., p. 177), may be considered a geographic race or sub-species.

Mr. Whitlock's full field notes concerning *M. edouardi* are found in *The Emu*, xvii., p. 175, and his finding of the nest and eggs, as described by Mr. H. L. White, in *The Emu*, ante, p. 127. Mr. Carter's first finding of *M. leucopterus* is not without interest, and is abridged from *The Ibis*, 1917:—I landed on Dirk Hartog Island on 25th April, 1916. Taking a turn with a .410 gun round the vicinity of the station homestead next morning, a Wren that appeared blue-and-white, with some female and immature birds, was seen and followed some distance. A long shot at the male had no result, except an impression was formed that it was the wrong colour, which was doubtless caused by a glimpse of its blue tail, and also that blue-and-white Wrens had been observed on the Peron two days previously. As the manager, Mr. Lloyd, was going to the north end of the island next day with camels, taking rations for men at out-camps and windmills, he kindly offered to take me and a small outfit, and leave me to camp alone some days at the well surrounded by scrub at the north-east corner of the island. On 27th April we travelled about 26 miles without seeing anything especial in the bird line. The following day Mr. Lloyd (who was leading the string of camels, while I "tailed" them) pointed to a Wren with white shoulders perched on a bush some distance from the track. I dismounted, and followed the bird a long way before I secured it—a real Black-and-White Wren, and one of the main objects of the trip accomplished! The bird was exceedingly wild, and gave some idea of the difficulty to be experienced in obtaining more specimens. The males were invariably wild and difficult to approach, but the females and immature males could always be "chirped" up, often to within a yard, and would remain there, usually on the top of twigs of a small bush. It was useless attempting to "chirp" up an old male, but sometimes, when a party of females and young birds

* Dirk Hartog Island and Barrow Island are about 400 miles apart, the former being separated from the mainland by a passage barely a mile in width, while the latter island is 30 miles from the mainland.—A. J. C.

was intently watching me while listening to my "chirping," the male was seen lurking in the dense foliage of a neighbouring bush, but would not openly expose itself. A full-plumaged male is usually accompanied by a party of from six to ten females and young birds, and leads them away at high speed, necessitating hard running to keep them in sight. One or two birds keep dropping out of sight, and eventually one finds the whole party has vanished in the scrub. The elusive males are even wilder than those of *M. cyanotus*. The song of both species is very similar—a delicate musical "trilling"—but not so frequently uttered by the Black-and-White species.

The birds usually run over the ground with tails erect at a surprising speed, but they sometimes hop. They are very skilful in flying perpendicularly into the air from the summit of a bush and catching small insects on the wing.

Stipiturus (malachurus) hartogi, Carter (*Bull. B.O.C.*, xxxvii., p. 6; *Ibis*, 1917, pl. xi.)

Whitlock secured a female of this newly-discovered, light-coloured, insular form. Carter secured both sexes, which are well figured in the coloured plate mentioned. It will be observed that the Hartog Emu-Wren most resembles *westernensis* (Campbell), but is smaller, paler, and has the filamentary feathers of its tail broader.

We learn from Mr. Carter that the first bird procured was a male, which was creeping about in a small wattle-bush; date, 28th April, 1916. At another part of the island, low, thick scrub matted with creepers, and also patches of dwarf tea-tree, seemed full of these extremely unobtrusive little birds. They creep about in a mouse-like fashion, the only notes heard being a faint mouse-like squeak. They do not fly much, but when they do the flight is straight, with tail extended horizontally, and in the bright sunlight the tail feathers sometimes glisten, so that these tiny birds might be mistaken for large dragon-flies. By keeping quiet one can readily watch them, and they can be "chirped" close up, but do not come out much from the actual shelter of the bushes. The male birds always appeared the bolder and more inquisitive.

Mr. Carter states that the sub-species (*hartogi*) is "quite distinct" from *ruficeps*. May they not be separate species? (Compare *Ibis*, 1899, pl. vii., and *Ibis*, 1917, pl. xi.)

Amytornis textilis, Quoy and Gaimard. Grass-Wren.
Diaphorillas t. textilis.

Mr. Carter's second re-discovery (a single ♂) was this other long-lost bird. Mr. Whitlock also obtained a single specimen, fortunately the opposite sex. It was a fortunate "snapshot," because it was the only specimen of the kind he saw on the Peron. Therefore, after the lapse of a century, it took two good field naturalists to collect a pair of birds, and so establish a long-lost species.

The following is Mr. Carter's account (*Ibis*, 1917, p. 605):—

"One specimen only of the Grass-Wren was procured on Peron Peninsula, though it is believed that others were seen. When a glimpse of a *Calamanthus* is obtained as it goes at full speed on the ground through scrub, it can easily be mistaken for a Grass-Wren, as the Field-Wren (*Calamanthus*) has very long legs for its size.

"On 3rd January, 1917, after having seen and chased a Grass-Wren for seven consecutive days at the same locality on the Peron, it (or another) was shot. It was always seen in the scrub from three to five feet high, and was exceedingly wild, usually only a distant glimpse of it being seen. On this particular day it was flushed in low scrub, and at once it ran off at great speed. I 'chirped' with my lips, and as the bird was running away it partially spread and drooped its wings and puffed out its feathers until it reached the shelter of a good-sized bush, below which it was only partly visible. A shot was chanced through intervening twigs, and it was killed. It was a male, with large testes. The general plumage was darker in shade and with rather bolder stripe-marks than birds from Dirk Hartog. The centre of the abdomen was white, which marking was not observed on any of the Dirk Hartog specimens."

Dimensions in mm.—length 170, wing 65, tail 90.

Whitlock's skin is not unlike Gould's plate (No. 28, vol. iii., "*Birds of Australia*"), which is slightly richer and darker coloured, and the skin, being a female, shows the chestnut-marked sides. Dimensions in mm.—length 160, wing 60, tail 80, tarsus 26, culmen 13.

Mathews considers the Dirk Hartog bird is sub-specifically separate, naming it *carteri* in the *Austral Avian Record*, iii., p. 87, with a fine coloured plate.

In view of the discovery of typical *Amytornis textilis*, it may be interesting to review its distribution, as was done with *A. striata* (see coloured plate and accompanying letterpress, *Emu*, ante, p. 81). Gould claims to have observed the Textile Wren on the plains bordering the Lower Namoi (New South Wales), where it was very abundant; but from his plate (above cited) it does not appear that he figured the Eastern bird, which students will agree is North's race, *modesta*.* Therefore, the distribution in general as given in the "Check-list" (p. 79) is correct—namely, *textilis*, "W. and Central Australia"; *modesta*, "New South Wales, S. and Central Australia."

Zosterops gouldi, Bonaparte. Grey-backed White-eye.

Zosterops (lutea) balstoni, Grant. Carnarvon White-eye.

One ♂ and 2 ♀♀ of the former were obtained on Dirk Hartog, while a similar number and sexes of this the more yellow

* See also "Nests and Eggs" (North), i., p. 250. And with which Mathews's *inexpectatus*, habitat New South Wales, appears synonymous.

and Northern species were taken on Barrow Island, which localities are nearly 400 miles (statute) apart in a direct line. The two species would appear to meet between the Gascoyne and Ashburton Rivers. At Point Cloates * Mr. Carter observed *gouldi* occasionally, but in the dense cover of the Gascoyne it was abundant, while *balstoni* was a common winter visitor to the coastal hill thickets. Mr. Carter is of opinion that the yellow species bred in the mangroves in the region of the North-West Cape, while Mr. Whitlock obtained an immature female specimen at Cossack; date, 10/9/18.

***Ptilotis sonora*, Gould.** Singing Honey-eater.

Dorothina v. virescens.

Four ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, variously from Barrow Island, Dirk Hartog Island, and the mainland, all of which specimens are visually inseparable. Ogilvie-Grant treated the Bernier Island bird as typical *sonora*. See also previous remarks in *Emu*, ante, p. 5.

Mr. Carter's field observations are (*Ibis*, 1917, p. 609):—"The large size and bold markings of the birds on Dirk Hartog Island attracted my attention at the homestead immediately on arrival. Specimens from Dirk Hartog and the Peron average one inch longer in total measurement than birds from Carnarvon or Point Cloates districts. They are also much darker in the general colour of the mantle and under parts, and the black, yellow, and white stripes behind the eyes are larger and brighter in colour. Their habits and notes are the same as those from other localities. All the scrub of the island swarmed with recently-fledged young and their parents in October, and their noisy presence distracted attention when searching for Grass-Wrens" (*Amytornis*).

***Glyciphila ocellaris*, Gould.** Brown Honey-eater.

Stigmatops indistincta perplexa.

One ♀ taken on Dirk Hartog. Mr. Carter did not meet with the species there. For further remarks on range, &c., see *Emu*, xviii., p. 5.

***Acanthogenys rufogularis*, Gould.** Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater.

A. v. flavacanthus.

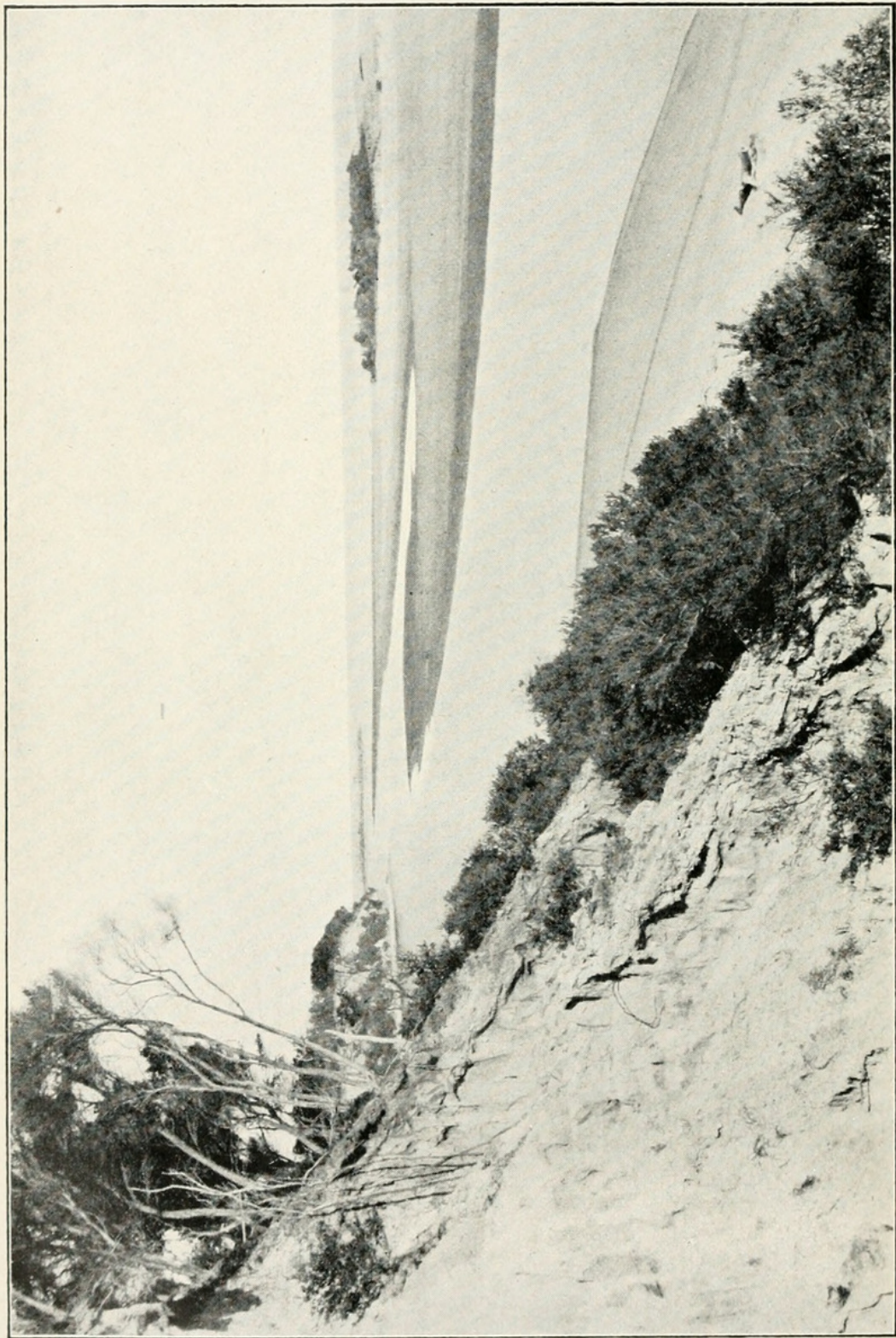
One ♀ from Barrow Island—a good northern range. The collector's label bears the word "stray." Western birds are slightly smaller (wing 107 mm.) than typical or Eastern ones (wing 113 mm.)

***Anthus australis*, Vigors and Horsfield.** Pipit (Ground-Lark).

Austranthus australis.

On account of the variable colour of its plumage, the *Anthus* is always puzzling. Whitlock collected three specimens (1 ♂, 2 ♀♀) each from both Dirk Hartog and Barrow Islands. Carter believed there was sub-specific difference in the former birds, and named them *hartogi* (*Ibis*, 1917, p. 610); but a pair from Kow

* Carter, "Birds Occurring in the Region of N.W. Cape," *Emu*, iii., p. 91.



The Mouth of the Snowy River and Drifted Sand Beach.

Plains, Victoria, can hardly be separated from *hartogi*, and with same wing (82 mm.) Ogilvie-Grant did not recognize any difference in the Bernier Island bird to the common *Anthus*.

The Barrow birds are, however, redder in colour—more like the tone of *Mirafra woodwardi* from Cossack and contiguous mainland—and most resemble *subrufus* (Mathews). *A. montebelli* (Mathews), from Montebello Islands, near Barrow, is, no doubt, similar to the Barrow bird, and consequently also to *subrufus*, which race is shown as the "Rufous Pipit" for N.W. Australia on the R.A.O.U. "Check-list," p. 105.

Tæniopygia castanotis, Gould. Chestnut-eared Finch.

T. c. wayensis.

Two ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (more or less in immature plumage), from Barrow Island. During Mr. Carter's visit to Dirk Hartog and the immediate mainland he found this far-distributed species abundant. The Barrow Island bird seems to agree with *wayensis*, which appears to be a light-coloured race with bill "vermilion" instead of "orange," as in typical birds (Mathews). Gould gives the colour of the bill "reddish-orange" for typical birds.

"Down Marlo Way."

BEING THE ACCOUNT OF A TRIP TAKEN BY DR. BROOKE NICHOLLS,
F. NICHOLLS, W. B. ALEXANDER, AND TOM TREGELLAS.

THE party left Melbourne early on a very hot morning, and after an oppressive journey, the last part of which was through bush fires, arrived at Orbost, the terminus of the Gippsland railway, at 9.30 p.m. The 10-mile run by motor along the banks of the Snowy River to Marlo, with our big headlights flashing on the recumbent cattle and horses by the roadside, with rabbits scuttling for their burrows by the river, and big moths and beetles dashing themselves to death on our wind-shield, was a ride long to be remembered. A refreshing dip in the river in the dark before turning in, and a cool change working up from the south during the night, soon restored our energies, and next morning we were ready to start exploring the locality.

Marlo (aboriginal for "white earth") is situated on a cliff overlooking the estuary of the Snowy River, between which and the sea stretches the long line of sand-dunes behind the Ninety-Mile Beach. Looking from the highest of these dunes, a wonderful view is obtained. Close at hand, and almost at one's feet, lie the lagoons, in which, according to the tourist map, "bream, perch, and ludrick" teem. A little to the right is seen the township of Marlo, across the estuary where "bream, salmon, skipjacks, silvers, trevalli, and yellowtail" are obtained. On quiet evenings great numbers of fish, chiefly mullet, are seen along the backwaters, jumping out of the water and gambolling in the



Campbell, Archibald James. 1919. "Further Notes on Additions to the "H. L. White Collection."" *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 18(4), 254–265. <https://doi.org/10.1071/mu918254>.

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