

The Emu

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"Birds of a feather."

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[PART I.

Black-and-White Wren-Warbler (*Malurus leucopterus*).

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

THERE is much historic and ornithological interest surrounding the Black-and-White Wren, first discovered in 1818 on Dirk Hartog Island, W.A., by Quoy and Gaimard, collectors attached to the French survey ship *Uranie*, and originally called *Merion leucoptere*.

The Black-and-White Wren did not appear again until 1901, when the writer, through the courtesy of the late Bernard Woodward, Western Australian Museum, described the Barrow Island bird before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria (see *Victorian Naturalist*, xvii., p. 203), and more recently (1916) Mr. Tom Carter, M.B.O.U., procured specimens from the original locality, Dirk Hartog Island (see *Ibis* for October, 1917); and Mr. G. M. Mathews furnished coloured figures of the male and female in *The Austral Avian Record*, vol. iii., No. 4.

The two island varieties (males) are now figured (Coloured Plate I.), together with their mainland representative, the Blue-and-White Wren (*Malurus cyanotus*), all the specimens being taken from the "H. L. White Collection," National Museum, Melbourne.

As previously stated (*Emu*, xviii., p. 260), the chief points of difference between the Barrow Island bird and that of Dirk Hartog Island are that the latter (*leucopterus*) has the darker blue tail (deep, dull violaceous blue), corresponding with the colour of that of the Blue-and-White Wren (*cyanotus*) of the mainland. The tail of the former (*edouardi*) is a more greyish-violaceous blue, while the female *edouardi* nearly resembles the colour (fawn) of the female Blue-and-White bird, the female *leucopterus* being lighter (drab). It also appears that the feathers of the lower part of the tibia of the male *leucopterus* are dusky grey, as in *cyanotus*, while the entire tibia of *edouardi* is black. From an examination of workable material these differences seem constant, and, there being no intermediate forms of the Black-and-White species, the two varieties may be separated on visual examination, without the assistance of attached labels.



SOME AUSTRALIAN WREN-WARBLERS

Blue-and-White Wren-Warbler
(*Malurus cyanotus*)

Black-and-White Wren-Warbler
(*Malurus leucopterus*)

Allied Black-and-White Wren-Warbler
(*Malurus edouardi*)



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