

to a certain extent of that of the *Podargi*. It is noticeable that, while the feathers of the head are chiefly black, the general colour of the rest of the feathers is not black, but a dark shade of olive-green. The colour at first sight appears blackish-brown, but a closer examination shows that there is a green tinge in it, as well as a sub-metallic lustre. Another thing worth noticing is that the bars on the feathers of the back and on the upper wing coverts are light buff, while on the feathers of the head and throat, and on the upper tail coverts and tail feathers, they are rufous.

This beautiful and elegant Cuckoo was first observed devouring caterpillars on low bushes in forest country near Nelson. I had no gun handy, but, returning to the place the same day, I fortunately secured the bird. This was during the first week of September, 1912. About the same time there appeared to be three other specimens, but they probably belonged to the Square-tailed species (*C. flabelliformis*, Lath.), which could easily be mistaken for *C. lineatus* at a distance, though there is little resemblance between them when seen at close quarters. With the exception of the members of the genus *Chalcococcyx*, *Cacomantis lineatus* is the most beautiful of Australian Cuckoos, and it is somewhat remarkable that so distinct a bird has not been discovered sooner. The new bird was secured close to the town of Nelson, and within 12 miles of the port of Cairns.

Description of New Grass-Wren.

BY J. W. MELLOR, R.A.O.U., ADELAIDE.

Amytornis merrotsyi (Chestnut-mantled Grass-Wren), sp. nov.

Specimens of a new species of Grass-Wren (*Amytornis*) have been forwarded to me by Mr. A. L. Merrotsy, who collected them in the spinifex or porcupine-grass country to the north-east of Lake Torrens. The male, female, and eggs have all been secured. From its striped appearance it is nearly related to the Striated Grass-Wren (*A. striatus*). The most conspicuous character, apart from the striation, is a light rufous or chestnut colouration of the head and mantle. The bird can be at once distinguished from the Striated Grass-Wren by the large amount of rusty-chestnut on the head and mantle, the absence of black beneath the eye and on the ear coverts, and by its much shorter tail. The feet and legs are larger and stouter.

Descriptions are as follow :—

Male.—Upper surface bright rusty-chestnut, especially on the head and mantle, all the feathers having a conspicuous line of white down the centre, the white being bordered on each side by a narrow line of black, which throws the white streak more into prominence. Feathers of forehead short, stiff, narrow and bristle-like, white striped

with black edgings; the ear coverts are similar in colour but longer; chin buffy-white. Throat, chest, and sides of breast feathers striped with dull white, on each side of which is a narrow line of dull brown, and edged again with dull white. On centre of breast patch of uniform creamy-buff. Flanks, abdomen, rump, and under tail coverts light brown. Wings brown, the primaries having buff shafts, and a portion of the outer web chestnut, forming a conspicuous patch of that colour in the centre of the wing. Secondaries and greater wing coverts with buffy stripe down entire centre, and edged with narrow margin of the same colour, which becomes more chestnut as the smaller wing coverts are reached; under wing coverts buff. Tail brown, each feather margined with dull buffy-brown, and slightly tipped with the same colour, the shafts being rusty-brown; shape of each feather being somewhat narrow, and pointed at the tip. Bill dark horn; feet dark horn.

Female.—Much the same colouration throughout, the rufous on the mantle, &c., being slightly lighter, also a little more rufous on the greater wing coverts; shoulders have a wash of the same colour, while the under surface indicates less striation and more rufous wash all over the breast. All the tail feathers have a distinctly light buffy-brown line down the centre.

Measurements in 100th parts of inch:—Male.—Total length, 610; bill, 60; wing, 260; tail, 320; tarsi, 110, and stout. Female.—Total length, 580; bill, 54; wing, 230; tail, 280; tarsi, 110.

Nest.—Domed and loosely constructed of dry spinifex grass, lined with rabbits' fur. Built in spinifex-grass bush. Eggs.—Two form clutch; shape—somewhat elongated, equally rounded at both ends, the ground colour being pearly-white, uniformly dotted and marked with various-sized, irregularly-shaped splashes of reddish-brown, the marking denser at the extreme larger end. Dimensions in 100th parts of inch:—(a) 88 × 60; (b) 88 × 60.

New *Acanthiza*.

BY ALEX. W. MILLIGAN, R.A.O.U., MELBOURNE.

Acanthiza pygmea, sub-sp. nov.

The above new sub-species was discovered in the Mallee district of Victoria by Mr. Leslie G. Chandler in October, 1912, when collecting for Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, N.S.W., and I was permitted to examine it in connection with my monograph, in preparation, on the *Acanthizæ*. This is the smallest of all the genus, and, for that reason, I propose the trivial name of Fairy Tit. It closely resembles *Acanthiza mathewsi*, Hartert, from which it does not differ to any material extent in either the colour or pattern of its plumage. Its miniature proportions,