

71 ♀, Yalgoo, W.A., similar to 2203; abdomen and under tail coverts white; tail tipped white, including central feathers; bill and legs black.

2160 ♂, Moorilyanna Well, Cen. Aus., like 2202, but darker (more olive) on rump; wing 2.1 in.; secondaries edged white.

501 ♀, Moorilyanna Well, C.A., like 2203, but breast faintly tinged buff.

6264 ♂, Moorilyanna Well, C.A. (type *A. mariamae*, S. A. White), slightly darker than 2202.

2159 ♀, Everard Ranges, C.A., like 2160, but flanks darker; wing 2.0 in.

B.1710 ♂, Everard Ranges, C.A., similar to 2160. (Pair lent by S.A. Mus.)

B.1711 ♀, Everard Ranges, C.A., flanks much lighter, similar to 2203.

6265 ♀, Musgrave Ranges, C.A., more olive on back than 2203 and darker on breast and throat.

REMARKS.

This is a far interior species of singular isolation and differs from all other species of *Acanthizinae* in having black shaft stripes to feathers of the crown and white tips to central as well as other tail feathers. It is not a simple pallid form like *G. uropygialis condora* of a species having darker races near the coastal regions. It is a straight-out desert species, as far as known at present, unconnected with any other kind.

Its strongholds appear to be in the vicinity of Lake Way, W.A., and also the centre portion of S.A. It will be noticed (see map *Emu*, XXIII., p. 29) that these regions are well within the 10 inch isohyet, and are both on old land surfaces. There is as yet no record of the species in intervening localities, but in all probability it occurs throughout those almost unknown desert regions, particularly about the 28th parallel of latitude, where similar old continental rock surfaces are to be found.

That a desert species is likely to have any good sub-species is not yet proven. The female has a greyer throat and smaller wing than the male and there is some variation in the tone of the flanks. It should be noted that this species has crescents on the forehead, white with black bases, confined however, to a very small frontal patch. The tail is somewhat rounded more like true *Acanthiza*, but for the reason that the basal portion of the tail is light coloured like the upper tail coverts, I prefer to place the species with *Geobasileus*.

A nestling is described by A. W. Milligan, *Emu*, Vol. III., p. 102.

Referring to Thornbills (these and their kindred pallid races of *G. uropygialis* and *A. pyrrhopygia*) being able to exist a great distance from water, S. A. White remarks that large bodied spiders which constitute the bulk of their food probably supply the necessary amount.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) in Moreton Bay.—On May 16, 1925, I saw a pair of these skuas near the pile light in Moreton Bay. They were both examples of the light phase with white underparts and yellowish cheeks. In the *Emu*, Vol. XXI., p. 271, I recorded seeing birds of this species off Cape Moreton in October, and as far as I can discover that is the only previous record of this skua in Queensland waters. It is surprising to meet with them so late in the season.—W. B. ALEXANDER.