

New Species of Field-Wren.

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Calamanthus winiam sp. nov.—Forehead russet; crown and back deep greyish-olive; whole upper-surface boldly streaked black; lores and brows white; ear-coverts olive-brown streaked white; upper tail-coverts russet at base; tail olive-brown at base with subterminal black bar 0.5 inch in width, tip whitish; under-surface white; throat, breast and flanks boldly streaked black; bill brown; legs light brown; length 5 inches; bill 0.55 inch; wing 2.2 inches; tail 2 inches; tarsus 0.9 inch.

Type, male, in National Museum, Melbourne; taken August 30, 1923, near Winiam, south of Nhill, Victoria.

The female resembles the male, but the ground colour of the under-surface is light buff, not white; wing 2.1 inches.

The young bird on leaving the nest has a colouration identical with the female—well streaked above and below, but the wing is shorter—1.9 inches—and the tail 1 inch, not fully grown.

This species is found in a tract of country in western Victoria, extending into South Australia, known as “the Sandy Desert,” scrub-covered moorland—a “no-man’s land”—which is also the habitat of *Acanthiza hedleyi*.

The species differs from *Calamanthus fuliginosus* in the deep greyish tone of upper-surface and entire absence of citrine colour. It differs from *C. campestris* in the restricted patch of russet upon the forehead and the heavy nature of the striations. It approaches nearest to *C. montanellus* of south-west Australia, and its ally, the insular form, *C. hartogi*, but is whiter beneath and is a larger bird.

Nest.—Oval in shape (placed on side with entrance at one end); foundation (built in slight hollow scooped in sand) composed of short, fine, greyish pieces of grass intermixed with brownish, downy portions of banksia cones; upper outside structure composed of dead, greyish, weather-beaten grass, very small sticks and fine dead branchlets of bushes; lined inside with a thick ply of feathers, including Emu, Wattle-Bird, Quail, Magpie, Raven and Brown Hawk, in addition to those of its own species, and down of Grey Duck, insect cocoons and wool. Dimensions in inches: Length about 6, height and breadth 4, entrance $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameter.

Eggs.—Clutch, three; short ovate in shape; texture of shell comparatively fine, surface glossy; colour wood-brown, with darker soft blotches of same colour (or chestnut) about the upper quarter, in one specimen (No. 1) in the form of an indistinct band. Dimensions in centimetres: (1) 21×15.7 , (2) 20.3×15.5 , (3) 20×15.2 .

Found on September 15, 1927, by A. J. Campbell and R. J. Oldfield near Winiam, western Victoria. “Winiam” or “Weeneum” is stated to be a corruption of the aboriginal name “Win-in-iam,” meaning “wild honeysuckle,” probably the serrated-leaved banksia, which grows abundantly in the neighbourhood.