

variabile, *Podolepis aristata* and *Myriocephalus guerinae*, all yellow everlasting, the flowering heads of which appeared in large quantities in the few (15) samples examined. Other species occurring in large quantities in samples from this area in August were Wheel Fruit (*Gyrostemon ramulosus*) and Parakeelya (*Calandrinia polyandra*.) In areas affected by the plague grasshopper (*Austroicetes cruciata*) Emus are found which have eaten large quantities of these insects.

REFERENCES

- Fleay, D. 1935. Nesting of the Emu. *Emu* 35: 202.
Gooding, C. D. and Long, J. L. 1961. Control of the Emu. *J. Agric. W.A.* 2(4th series): 661-668.
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Purple-crowned Wren: habitat and call-note.—As all previous notes (cf. Officer, *Emu* 63: 340) on the habitat of the Purple-crowned Wren, *Malurus coronatus*, refer to cane grass, pandanus palm or native bamboo, the following observations, made en route to the Kimberleys in 1963, may be of interest.

On August 1 an overnight camp was set up on a high section of the south bank of the Victoria River, three miles west of Timber Creek, N.T. During the late afternoon, when the temperature was 96°, I investigated several dry creek beds of tall cane grass solely in search of the Purple-crowned Wren. No trace was found of the species until I was directed to a long narrow patch of mangroves, no higher than seven feet, growing within feet of the water's edge. As I approached, a clear high-pitched alarm note came from the mangroves—a distinctive note but not the true familiar note of other *Malurus*. I entered the mangroves and squatted quietly, and was rewarded with excellent views of five apparent females: each had the distinctive brown facial patch extending below the eye, and all had erect blue tails.

None of the birds was shy, and they flitted inquisitively around the upper branches of the mangroves, inches above my head, and on several occasions came down to ground level. The familiar group note of *Malurus* spp. was heard, but not frequently. On the other hand the lone male kept well in the background, and it was not until he was manoeuvred into the sun that the full splendour of his plumage was evident.

I observed this group for at least 20 minutes, and at no time did they leave the mangroves. Next morning a thorough search of mangroves and near-by cane grass revealed not one trace of these or any other Purple-crowned Wrens. Considerable areas along the Ord and Fitzroy Rivers were searched for *M. coronatus*, without success.—JACK WHEELER, 19 Roslyn Road, Belmont, Vic.