

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, USA (Alexander 1921, *Emu* **20**: 224-227). Since then the species has not apparently been collected in Australia or at sea nearby, though Sharland (1958, *Tasmanian birds*) records individuals south-east of Tasmania.

The Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, recently received two specimens. The first (Reg. No. 1968.2.221) was found dead by a schoolboy on 10 June 1968 at the base of the Eddystone Point lighthouse among a number of others apparently of the same species. The second (Reg. No. 1968.2.224) was found by a farmer at Priory about 16 km from the north-eastern coast on 8 July 1968. It had apparently died as a result of striking overhead wires.

Unfortunately the birds had died about three weeks before being skinned and they could not be sexed or aged, but their measurements were as follows: total length 157 and 154 mm, tail 62 and 62, wing 120 and 126, wing spread 325 and 331, tarsus 31·7 and 30·8, middle toe 26 and 25·6, bill to base of skull 17·7 and 19·1, first and second specimen respectively throughout. These measurements are slightly less than those given by Stuart-Sutherland (1922, *Emu* **22**: 54-59) for two birds collected on Puysegur Point at the south-western corner of the south island of New Zealand on 7 December 1921, but the difference may be partly the result of dessication.

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7 August 1968.

Albert Lyrebird in Blackall Range

Records of the Albert Lyrebird *Menura alberti* north of Brisbane were examined by A. H. Chisholm (1957, *Emu* **57**: 25-30), who referred to an egg which had been in the possession of A. J. Campbell and which had been taken on the Mary River, draining north through the Blackall Range, stating that it had been taken probably by W. H. Caldwell who was studying the lung-fish and platypus in that area. The egg is now in the National Museum, Melbourne. It is of interest to note that there are also two eggs, apparently from the same source, in the British Museum (Natural History).

Campbell obtained his egg from someone in Britain; this was probably the dealer Jamrach who had supplied two similar eggs to P. Crowley, a well known egg collector in the latter half of last century. The Crowley collection was bequeathed to the British Museum where it was received in 1901-2. The two lyrebird eggs were entered in the register as from the Mary River and are so listed in the Museum Catalogue of Birds Eggs 1903, vol. 3. If any further history had been associated with the eggs it is now lost because unfortunately the Crowley catalogues, from which the register data had been extracted, were returned to the family.

Recent efforts to trace them again have proved fruitless. The only additional information to that noted by Chisholm is from a pencil mark on each egg, '7/12/84'. But this adds little enlightenment, for the date is ambiguous; the interpretation that the eggs had been collected on 7 December may be wrong as breeding records suggest that 12 July would be more accurate. Be that as it may, Caldwell collected, or had collected for him, eggs from at least three nests, possibly in the same season, in an area where it is now difficult to be certain that the species continues to exist; it must have been fairly common in 1884.

R. B. Sharpe also included this northern population of the Albert Lyrebird in the Museum Catalogue of Birds 1890, vol 13, when he noted Wide Bay in its distribution, although not on the evidence of specimens in the Museum collection.

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10 August 1968.

Acrocephalus arundinaceus orientalis, **first record in**
New Guinea

In early 1962 L. and S. Quate collected a few birds while engaged in entomological studies in the Kebar Valley, Vogelkop, West Irian. Thirty of these are now in The American Museum of Natural History, New York; and one is a new record for the island.

According to Rand & Gilliard (1967, *Handbook of New Guinea Birds*: 351), previous records of the Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* in New Guinea have been of the small widespread race *sumbae*, which has been recorded from a few widely scattered localities on the island and measures (mm): wing, ♂ 65-70, ♀ 61-65; tail, ♂ 60-68, ♀ 58-59; culmen from base, ♂ 20.5-21.5, ♀ 20.5-21; tarsus, ♂ 25-26, ♀ 24. The Kebar Valley bird is much larger: wing 92, tail 76, culmen from base 24, tarsus 31. It agrees in size and colour with *A. a. orientalis*, which breeds from northern Mongolia and Japan south to the lower Yangtze Valley and which has been recorded as wintering as far south and east as Celebes, the Moluccas and Melville Island (Vaurie 1959, *Birds of the Palearctic Fauna*: 246-247).

The Kebar Valley is inland from Mubrani, on the north coast of the Vogelkop, at an altitude of 550 m. Quate writes (*in litt.*): 'All the collecting that we did in the Kebar Valley was at a fairly low elevation. About a mile to the north of our camp was a low, moist area of considerable expanse. It was not a true swamp, but had a sluggish stream running through a forest and the soil was permanently moist or muddy for several hundred feet on each side of the stream.' This seems to be the area in which the bird was collected. Hoogerwerf (1964, *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* **84**: 157), who