

been determined to prepare a list of correspondents and stations I am quite willing my name should appear as correspondent at Rockhampton.

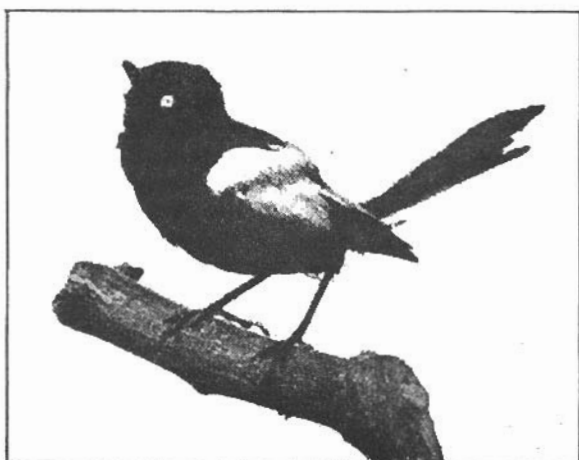
## Notes on Certain Maluri, with a Description of a New Species.

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, Melbourne.

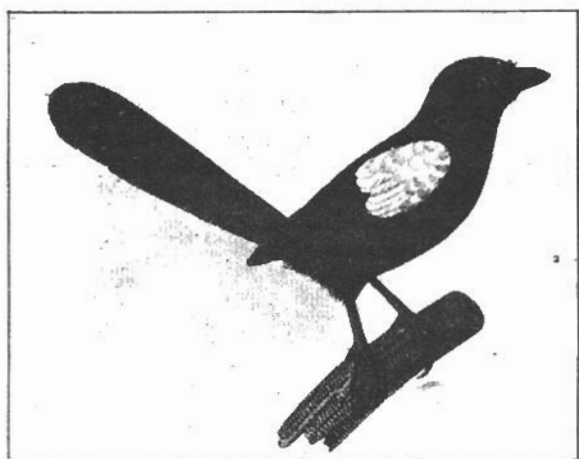
1. OWING to the great interest aroused by the discovery (or perchance, re-discovery) of a black and white *Malurus* for Australia (see page 26 previous number), it has been thought worth while to give illustrations pertaining thereto. See plate vi. Fig. 1 is *M. edouardi* as it is set up in the Perth Museum. Fig. 2 is a copy of Quoy and Gaimard's figure *Mérion leucoptère* or *Malurus leucoptera*, from an original sketch made on the spot.

It will be noticed that the bill as shown in the French naturalist's figure is comparatively very stout for a *Malurus*. The following is the text of the description of this bird, translated from the French:—"This bird comes from the same place as the previous one (*Amytis textilis*). We only met it on the Island of Dirk Hartog, living among the *traquets*, which it seemed to us to resemble in its habits. It is shown with natural splendour in the sketch which M. Arogo made of it at the time. Its whole head, neck, belly, and the upper part of the back are of so dark a blue as to appear black; the wings are white on the upper part and brownish at their extremities. Perhaps the latter colour depends on the age, and is not that which ought always to be there. The beak is black and the claws are brown. Total length, 3 inches 4 lines, or thereabouts."

2. Gould has figured an exceedingly beautiful *Malurus* in his great folio work, vol. iii., pl. 20, and named it *M. melanotus* (Black-backed Wren), and another equally splendid species in his Supp., pl. 23, called *M. callainus* (Turquoise Wren). Between these there is apparently an intermediate species or variety, at least if difference of colouring may be taken as a criterion. I alluded to this possible third or intermediate variety in my work "Nests and Eggs," page 171. Since the completion of my MS. for the volume, I have had the opportunity of examining more material, which has confirmed my opinion, and I think ornithologists will eventually recognize this third species. Therefore, I venture to name the new bird *Malurus whitei*, in memory of the late Mr. Samuel White, of Adelaide, who was the discoverer of Gould's type of *M. callainus*, and who lost his life indirectly in the interests of Australian ornithology. Respecting Mr. White, Gould wrote:—"No one of my many correspondents in Australia is more keenly alive to the interest which attaches to our favourite branch of science—ornithology."



1. *Malurus edouardi*.



2. *Malurus leucopterus* (after Quoy and Gaimard).

The new bird, however, may be known on the Vernacular List as the Darker Turquoise Wren.

Description of the male of *Malurus whitei*:—Crown of head, mantle, breast or abdomen, and upper and lower tail coverts bright metallic blue, nearest shade turquoise; chin and throat rich cobalt or "new" blue; ear coverts light turquoise blue; lores, back of neck, band across breast, and lower back velvety black; wings brownish, with external margins of feathers bluish-green; tail also bluish-green, some of the feathers being tipped with dull white; irides, bill, and tarsi dark. Dimensions in inches: Length, 5; culmen, 0.3; wing, 1.95; tail, 2.1; tarsus, 1.

It will be obvious that *M. whitei*, with its head and mantle turquoise blue and ear coverts light turquoise blue, differs on the one hand from *M. melanotus*, which has head and mantle brilliant ultramarine and ear coverts light blue; and, on the other hand, from *M. callainus*, which has head and mantle light turquoise blue and ear coverts silvery turquoise, almost white.

Geographically *M. whitei* also appears intermediate between *M. melanotus* and *M. callainus*. *M. melanotus* is found in the Lower Murray district and parts adjacent thereto, *M. whitei* in the interior, and *M. callainus* in the interior also, with a leaning towards the west, if an example in the National Museum, Melbourne, be correctly located.

### Description of a New Bristle Bird (*Sphenura*).

BY ALEX. WM. MILLIGAN, PERTH.

THE discovery of a new species of *Sphenura* was made by me on the 12th October last in the dwarf coastal shrubs at Ellensbrook, in the south-west division of this State, about midway between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin, whither I had gone in the hope of obtaining specimens of *Atrichia clamosa*.

The new bird closely resembles *Sphenura broadbenti*, and at first sight I thought that it was that form, or a western variety of it, but after examination of a skin of the eastern form belonging to the Geelong Museum, and kindly lent by Mr. W. Mulder, I felt that I need not have the slightest hesitation in separating it from that species.

The chief differences between the species are that the new one is much smaller than *Sphenura broadbenti*, and that in the former the rufous or chestnut head is brighter, and the under surfaces lighter than in the latter, and that the yellow gape and triangular loreal spot present in *Sphenura broadbenti* is absent in the latter.

The bird has two distinct calls—alarm notes and song notes. The former it utters when closely pursued and pressed, and resembles the words "pink, pink, pink." The latter is a series of clear, liquid, thrush-like notes.

The bird was most difficult to flush or even see, and it was