

with black edgings; the ear coverts are similar in colour but longer; chin buffy-white. Throat, chest, and sides of breast feathers striped with dull white, on each side of which is a narrow line of dull brown, and edged again with dull white. On centre of breast patch of uniform creamy-buff. Flanks, abdomen, rump, and under tail coverts light brown. Wings brown, the primaries having buff shafts, and a portion of the outer web chestnut, forming a conspicuous patch of that colour in the centre of the wing. Secondaries and greater wing coverts with buffy stripe down entire centre, and edged with narrow margin of the same colour, which becomes more chestnut as the smaller wing coverts are reached; under wing coverts buff. Tail brown, each feather margined with dull buffy-brown, and slightly tipped with the same colour, the shafts being rusty-brown; shape of each feather being somewhat narrow, and pointed at the tip. Bill dark horn; feet dark horn.

*Female*.—Much the same colouration throughout, the rufous on the mantle, &c., being slightly lighter, also a little more rufous on the greater wing coverts; shoulders have a wash of the same colour, while the under surface indicates less striation and more rufous wash all over the breast. All the tail feathers have a distinctly light buffy-brown line down the centre.

Measurements in rooth parts of inch:—Male.—Total length, 610; bill, 60; wing, 260; tail, 320; tarsi, 110, and stout. Female.—Total length, 580; bill, 54; wing, 230; tail, 280; tarsi, 110.

*Nest*.—Domed and loosely constructed of dry spinifex grass, lined with rabbits' fur. Built in spinifex-grass bush. Eggs.—Two form clutch; shape—somewhat elongated, equally rounded at both ends, the ground colour being pearly-white, uniformly dotted and marked with various-sized, irregularly-shaped splashes of reddish-brown, the marking denser at the extreme larger end. Dimensions in rooth parts of inch:—(a) 88 × 60; (b) 88 × 60.

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### New *Acanthiza*.

BY ALEX. W. MILLIGAN, R.A.O.U., MELBOURNE.

#### *Acanthiza pygmea*, sub-sp. nov.

The above new sub-species was discovered in the Mallee district of Victoria by Mr. Leslie G. Chandler in October, 1912, when collecting for Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, N.S.W., and I was permitted to examine it in connection with my monograph, in preparation, on the *Acanthizæ*. This is the smallest of all the genus, and, for that reason, I propose the trivial name of Fairy Tit. It closely resembles *Acanthiza mathewsi*, Hartert, from which it does not differ to any material extent in either the colour or pattern of its plumage. Its miniature proportions,

however, as regard total length, bill, tarsi, tail, and wings, and its very slender tarsi and very short, fine bill, at once distinguish it from *Acanthiza mathewsi*. The sexes can be distinguished only by dissection. The measurements in millimetres of a series of two adult males and one adult female are as follow:—

	Total Length.	Wing.	Culmen.	Tarsus.
(a) ♂	... 90 ...	51 ...	8 ...	17
(b) ♂	... 92 ...	49 ...	8 ...	17
(c) ♀	... 88 ...	51 ...	8 ...	18

Bill and feet black. Irides brown.  
Type, Belltrees collection.

### Field Notes on the Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*).

BY (MISS) J. A. FLETCHER, R.A.O.U., SPRINGFIELD, TASMANIA.

(Read at the Launceston Session, R.A.O.U., 18/11/12).

EMU-WRENS (*Stipiturus malachurus*) are fairly common in the Springfield (Tas.) district. As a general rule, each pair of birds has its own haunt throughout the year; but I have seen as many as five Wrens together in the autumn. Probably three were the young of the last season, which had not been driven away by their parents. The rustling noise which these birds make when creeping through the rushes betrays them long before their "Tit-like" call is heard. When feeding quietly together their twittering notes resemble those of the *Acanthiza*, but the song of the male is a feeble edition of the *Maluri* notes. The warning call, again, is similar to that of the Tasmanian *Acanthiza*.

This season (1912) I have made some rather interesting notes regarding the Emu-Wrens. The female, as far as I have observed, does all the work of nest-building, gathering and arranging the material. Generally speaking, she is a slow builder if it be the first nest of the season which she is constructing. If she has lost her first nest she rebuilds and has a completed clutch of eggs in a fortnight's time. The male follows the female as she collects the grass and other material, and flies with her towards the nesting-site, but does not assist her. The female rolls the grass or other material into a neat bundle, and does not have it hanging loosely from her beak. She drops into the centre of a tussock, and emerges from one side, repeating the action in tussock after tussock until the chosen one is reached. With two exceptions the nests found or observed by me this year were placed in sword-grass tussocks, right down in the centre or just at the side. The principal grass used in the construction of the nests was meadow-fog, which is soft and pliable. Some of the nests had a capping of green moss. One was warmly lined with fur, and several were made cosy with feathers. The nest cavity was shallow, except in one instance, where the nest was built among reeds growing