

shaded by the thick overhead forest, only a few yards in advance, up flew that strange bird, the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*); its long beak, and eyes set far back on the head, were clearly seen. I was sorry to learn that in many of its old haunts this bird is found no more; the guns of the sportsmen have well-nigh exterminated it in these localities. An Oven-Bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) gave us one sample, and that was all, of its peculiar ascending song, described as "the word 'teacher' repeated five or six times, and gathering strength and volume with each syllable." While we had a fair view of it, the deep shadow of the forest prevented our getting the markings distinctly. Several of the Vireos were seen in the tops of the lower trees, but the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*) was the only one identified. Its short warble is repeated again and again, and it is locally known as the "Parson-Bird," gentlemen of the cloth evidently being credited in Maryland with "oft repetition."

Our delightful ramble was concluded with a close view of what is perhaps the most lovely of all the birds seen—the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). While the female was quite plain, the male was gloriously blue, every part of his 5½ inches—not the shot, shiny blue of our Australian *Maluridae*, but still a gloriously bright indigo blue, especially when seen in the blazing sunlight. The male bird kept largely on the ground, under the low, creeping shoots of the dewberry, at most about 18 inches from the ground. He showed himself as he flitted from low bush to bush, and then he gave us a splendid view while feeding a young one. By keeping close to this unquiet child we were able to get several splendid views of the parent.

I am indebted to Mr. Hammond Brown and to Chester A. Reed's little "Bird Guide" for the identifications.

Description of a New Sub-Species of *Malurus cyanotus*.

By H. L. WHITE, M.B.O.U., BELLTREES, SCONE, N.S.W.

MR. Sid. W. Jackson, while recently collecting for Mr. J. H. Bettington and me on the Diamantina River, Western Queensland, obtained a blue-and-white *Malurus* which differs from the southern and western varieties by its strikingly lighter colour—light violet-blue or cornflower blue; it has also much more white on the wings, extending to the secondaries.

In *The Emu*, vol. xiii., p. 171, Major Macgillivray mentions that Mr. W. M'Lennan collected the White-winged Wren further north, on the Cloncurry. Should these be similar to the Diamantina birds, and the colour constant, I suggest that the northern variety be called *Malurus c. diamantina*, and, in the vernacular, Light Blue-and-White Wren.

An immature male, in drab plumage, is likewise lighter in colour both above and below than typical specimens of *Malurus cyanotus*.