

on the under tail coverts, the longer feathers having a dull brown centre; flank rusty-brown, some of the feathers having a broad blackish-brown central stripe. Tail dull brown, with darker brown shafts, the large centre feathers being very pointed at the tips. Iris dark brown, bill brown, feet horn.

Dimensions in inches:—Total length, 4.94; bill, .60; wing, 2.10; tail, 2.25; tarsus, .78.

*Habitat.*—Flinders Island (Furneaux Group). Inhabiting swampy and marshy land, where the birds keep closely to the bushes, and utter a plaintive three-note call.

**Sericornis flindersi** (Flinders Scrub-Wren), sub-sp. nov.

*Adult Male.*—Head, back of neck, back, and wings dark brown; rump and tail reddish-brown, spurious wing feathers black, strongly tipped with white, the centre of a few feathers faintly marked with brown; cheek and abdomen dull white, passing into yellowish-brown on the flanks; lores black; under tail coverts brown, tipped with white. Bill and feet brown.

Dimensions in inches:—Total length, 4.5; bill, .62; wing, 2.25; tarsus, .88.

*Habitat.*—Flinders Island (Furneaux Group).

## Description of a New Cuckoo.

BY ALAN P. DODD, R.A.O.U., NELSON (N.Q.)

**Cacomantis lineatus** (Barred Cuckoo), sp. nov.

*Female.*—Back and upper wing coverts dark sub-metallic olive-green, each feather crossed with an irregular V-shaped light buff bar; primaries and secondaries slightly toothed with light buff. Head black, pencilled with rufous; the head colouration, when examined closely, contrasts with that of back. Upper tail coverts and tail dark sub-metallic olive-green, more or less toothed with rufous. Under surface of wing has an oblique white bar. Under wing coverts white, each feather with a single V-shaped dark sub-metallic olive-green bar. Throat dark sub-metallic olive-green barred with rufous, the centre of each feather pencilled with white. Lower throat similar, but the rufous colouring becomes paler, and on the chest blends into white. Towards the tail the white bars broaden, until on the abdomen the feathers have more white than olive-green. The bars of adjacent feathers not being symmetrical, the under surface does not show a uniform barred appearance as in *Chalcococcyx*, but is more marbled. Under tail coverts white, with five dark olive-green bars. Upper mandible blackish; lower mandible yellow, except the tip, which is blackish; gape yellow.

Dimensions in inches:—Length, 8; tail, 3.75; bill, 0.5.

Owing to the peculiar varied colouration of this bird, it is difficult to describe it accurately. The colouration reminds one

to a certain extent of that of the *Podargi*. It is noticeable that, while the feathers of the head are chiefly black, the general colour of the rest of the feathers is not black, but a dark shade of olive-green. The colour at first sight appears blackish-brown, but a closer examination shows that there is a green tinge in it, as well as a sub-metallic lustre. Another thing worth noticing is that the bars on the feathers of the back and on the upper wing coverts are light buff, while on the feathers of the head and throat, and on the upper tail coverts and tail feathers, they are rufous.

This beautiful and elegant Cuckoo was first observed devouring caterpillars on low bushes in forest country near Nelson. I had no gun handy, but, returning to the place the same day, I fortunately secured the bird. This was during the first week of September, 1912. About the same time there appeared to be three other specimens, but they probably belonged to the Square-tailed species (*C. flabelliformis*, Lath.), which could easily be mistaken for *C. lineatus* at a distance, though there is little resemblance between them when seen at close quarters. With the exception of the members of the genus *Chalcococcyx*, *Cacomantis lineatus* is the most beautiful of Australian Cuckoos, and it is somewhat remarkable that so distinct a bird has not been discovered sooner. The new bird was secured close to the town of Nelson, and within 12 miles of the port of Cairns.

### Description of New Grass-Wren.

By J. W. MELLOR, R.A.O.U., ADELAIDE.

***Amytornis merrotsyi*** (Chestnut-mantled Grass-Wren), sp. nov.

Specimens of a new species of Grass-Wren (*Amytornis*) have been forwarded to me by Mr. A. L. Merrotsy, who collected them in the spinifex or porcupine-grass country to the north-east of Lake Torrens. The male, female, and eggs have all been secured. From its striped appearance it is nearly related to the Striated Grass-Wren (*A. striatus*). The most conspicuous character, apart from the striation, is a light rufous or chestnut colouration of the head and mantle. The bird can be at once distinguished from the Striated Grass-Wren by the large amount of rusty-chestnut on the head and mantle, the absence of black beneath the eye and on the ear coverts, and by its much shorter tail. The feet and legs are larger and stouter.

Descriptions are as follow :—

*Male*.—Upper surface bright rusty-chestnut, especially on the head and mantle, all the feathers having a conspicuous line of white down the centre, the white being bordered on each side by a narrow line of black, which throws the white streak more into prominence. Feathers of forehead short, stiff, narrow and bristle-like, white striped