



THE WHITE-THROATED SHRIKE-ROBIN

Poecilodryas albigularis.

The Emu

Official Organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

"Birds of a feather."

VOL. XV.]

1ST JANUARY, 1916.

[PART 3.

Poecilodryas albigularis (Rothschild and Hartert).

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U., MELBOURNE.

THE White-throated Shrike-Robin was first discovered by Mr. Harry Barnard, at Cape York, while collecting for Mr. Dudley Le Souëf, Col. C. S. Ryan, and the late Dr. Wm. Snowball, during the season 1896-7. The specimen figured is a male procured by him, and now in the private collection of Mr. H. L. White, Belltrees, N.S.W.

General Description.—Upper surface olive-green; tail feathers light brown edged with olive; ear coverts and forehead blackish-brown, which colour extends over the eye and blends into the dark grey of the crown of head; face, including a narrow rim round the eye, and throat pure white; under surface yellow, of a slightly greenish tinge; bill black or dark brown; legs and feet flesh colour.

Dimensions:—Total length, $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches; wing, 3; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus, $\frac{3}{4}$.

Commenting on the New Guinea bird (*P. albifacies*, Sharpe), Drs. Rothschild and Hartert (*Nov. Zool.*, xiv., p. 459) state that "specimens from Cape York (Queensland) have not only the chin but nearly the whole of the throat for about 1 cm. white, and the pileum is slightly more blackish. This form may be named *Poecilodryas leucops albigularis*, sub-sp. nov."

The specimen which became the type was collected by Mr. A. S. Meek, at Cape York, 21st July, 1898.

It may be here remarked that Mr. G. M. Mathews was inclined to bunch the *Poecilodryas* and *Pachycephala* under the latter genus. (See "Reference-list to the Birds of Australia," *Nov. Zool.*, xviii., p. 312.) Considered oologically—"by their fruits ye shall know them" is a truism—the birds differ much. *Poecilodryas* has a well-made nest, artistically decorated, and the eggs are greenish with reddish markings; *Pachycephala* build looser and shallower nests, and lay yellowish or olive-coloured eggs marked with olive or umber.