

borders to many of the feathers, the throat white, the neck, breast and flanks barred grey and white, while the abdomen and under-tail coverts were pure white. All the other specimens in the collection from Western Australia are in winter plumage—when the under surface lacks the grey bars—although specimens 2788 and 9293 show faint markings on some of the breast feathers.

Birds in winter and summer plumage appear to visit the north of Australia in considerable quantities at times, for J. P. Rogers found them fairly common in north-western Australia and Tom Carter observed them to be numerous on North-west Cape from November to May. Mathews also states that they were recorded as plentiful on Melville Island and in full summer plumage.

Why the Tattler does not travel south as do the Sandpipers, Stints and Greenshanks it is difficult to say, for the food supplies on the reaches of the Swan River should be very attractive to such birds, as during the summer months waders of one species or another can be seen at almost any time.

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**The White-browed Scrub-Wren.**—The White-browed Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis frontalis*) enjoys an extensive range, being found in the coastal regions from South Queensland through New South Wales and Victoria to South Australia, and on some of the islands of Bass Straits. It is a common species, very active and fond of localities where there is plenty of undergrowth. The principal habitat is the densely-covered, humid brush gullies, and at times it is to be found on the sandy heathlands.

Where found on the heath country the birds follow the example of the other inhabitants and commence to build early. In such localities early August finds them busy at nest building, and during the two following months they may be heard at any time of the day giving forth their loud, rich and decisive notes from some low bush. The loosely-constructed, dome-shaped nest is always well lined with feathers or wool, and thoroughly hidden among the debris under a bush.

Frequently the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) deposits its egg in the nest for the Scrub-Wrens to hatch, and rear the young, and in the accompanying photograph the foster-parent is endeavouring to satisfy the hunger of its charge. The Scrub-Wrens of the gullies usually commence building during October, and the latest breeding record that has come under my notice was on December 8, when three young left the nest on my examining the same.—A. J. GWYNNE, R.A.O.U., Carrington, N.S.W.



White-browed Scrub-Wren feeding young Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

Photo. by A. J. Gwynne, R.A.O.U.