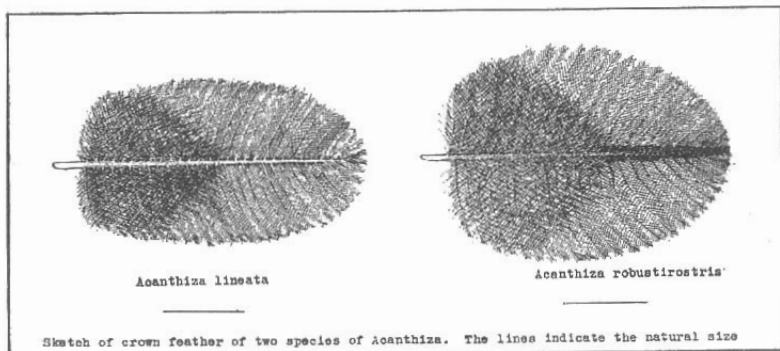


generalized characters. We must put them aside as an isolated stock deviating at a very early stage in the differentiation of the genus. Although we have placed the two together on the basis of the curious head streakings, they may not be closely related. There can be no question that the breast striations of *lineata* are independently derived from those of the *pusilla* group. Otherwise we would have



to derive *lineata* from some of the more specialized *pusilla* races, with coarsely streaked breasts, but we would then have to face, amongst other things, the discrepancy of the tail-wing index being so low (all the lines show a progressive increase, never the reverse). Similarly the streakings of the forehead of *A. robustirostris* must be regarded as of independent origin, as on close examination the patterns of the individual feathers show striking differences (see figure). That species seems plainly allied to *A. uropygialis*, and more distantly to *A. chrysorrhoa*.

An Inquisitive Owl.—Those who were about just after daylight in Burnie (North-west Tasmania) one morning at the end of the third week of July, were astonished to see a large Chestnut-faced Owl (*Tyto castanops*) perched on an iron bar in the alcove over the entrance to one of the principal banks. He gazed solemnly at the humans who were gazing up at him, and when a motor-lorry passed, twisted his head around to follow the vehicle's movements until his head seemed in danger of "screwing off." After moving his wings deliberately several times, apparently to "take the stiffness off"—for it was a cold winter morning—he flapped off to the parapet of a nearby building, but when customers began to arrive he presumably decided that it was no place for the bird of Minerva, and left for the seclusion of the fern-gully near the town.—H. STUART DOVE, Devonport, Tas., 13/8/38.