



AUSTRALIAN GREEN-BACKED FINCH.
Erythrura trichroa macgillivrayi

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"Birds of a feather."

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[PART I.]

Australian Green-backed Finch (*Erythrura trichroa macgillivrayi*).

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THE specimen illustrated is probably the first example of this bird taken in Australia, and the second to be recorded.

It was obtained by the National Museum, with other Queensland skins, in March, 1891, from F. Ayres, who collected it in North Queensland in 1890.

It was then identified as *Erythrura cyaneifrons*, Layard, but, as some doubt was entertained as to its being Australian, it was not recorded.

In 1914, while in company with Dr. W. Macgillivray, president R.A.O.U., and Mr. W. M'Lennan, on Lloyd Island, North-East Queensland, the latter secured a Finch which I recognized as being similar to the bird previously collected by Ayres. This specimen has been recorded by Mathews (*A. A. Rec.*, ii., p. 103, 1914) as a new sub-species, but he quotes the locality as Claudie River instead of Lloyd Island,* and states that it differs from *E. t. cyaneifrons* in its larger bill, deeper blue coloration on the forehead and cheeks, deeper-coloured upper tail coverts and tail, and longer wings.

The specimen here dealt with approaches very closely to *E. cyaneifrons*, the total length and measurement of the bill being practically the same, not larger, as in the Lloyd Island specimen, according to Mathews, and it possesses the blue chin noted in Sharpe's key to the species. The wing, however, is somewhat longer. Mathews, unfortunately, only gives the length of the wing—62 mm.

Total length, 121 mm.; wing, 62 mm.; tail, 50 mm.; culmen, 11 mm.

The specimen figured is a male, and is in the National Museum, Melbourne.

* See *Emu*, vol. xvii., pp. 73, 208.