



THE ALLIED TREE-CREEPER
Climacteris uddai

Left—Female

Middle—Male

Right—Male

The Emu

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"Birds of a feather."

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[PART 1.

Tree-creepers of the Genus *Climacteris*

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The accompanying coloured plate represents plesiotype specimens of the Allied Tree-creeper *Climacteris wellsi*. The letter-press may be referred to in *The Emu*, vol. xxii., p. 257.

While on the subject of Tree-creepers, it may be mentioned that an interesting specimen has been brought to light, namely, a skin of the Rufous Tree-creeper, *Climacteris rufa*, collected by Gilbert, at Perth, W.A., 1842. The skin came into the possession of Mr. Outram Bangs, F.A.O.U., Cambridge, Mass., America, who generously forwarded it to the R.A.O.U. through Mr. W. B. Alexander, M.A., C.F.A.O.U. The Council has decided, after grateful acknowledgment, to add the historic specimen to the "H. L. White Collection," National Museum, Melbourne. The skin bears the original label, which reads:

"*Climacteris rufa*, Gould. Irides Reddish Brown."

There is also a registration number in red ink—2716.

On obverse side—

"Male, Oct. 22, 1842. Perth, Western Australia."

Gilbert's type of *C. rufa* was collected in 1840, and was described by Gould in *Proc. Zool. Soc.* (London), 1840, p. 149. Gilbert evidently collected this other skin, which may now be regarded as a plesiotype, when he returned to Perth, 1842.*

The specimen appears to be slightly darker or duller in coloration (general under-surface tawny) than present-day specimens, but not so dark (under-surface russet) as the South-west Forest birds, which Mr. T. Carter collected and designated *C. rufa obscura* (*Bull. B.O. Club*, vol. xxvii., p. 16).

The following are the dimensions in millimetres of the Gilbertian specimen: Length, 160; culmen, 14; wing, 86; tail, 57; tarsus, 24.

Although over 80 years old, the skin is in a wonderful state of preservation—a silent tribute to the skill of the collector.

* Campbell, "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," p. x.