

*District of Geelong, Australia, 1914, p. 287, notes that a Mr. Mulder observed that such was sometimes the case with the Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), and Dr. MacGillivray, writing in *The Emu*, Vol. xxix., 1929, p. 124, mentions that the Red-backed Wren (*M. melanocephalus*) is known to breed in winter plumage. Might not the half-plumaged male have mated with the female some seven or eight weeks previously, when in all probability he would have then been in very poor colour?*

There appears to be considerable doubt whether the Variegated Wren has a seasonal moulting phase. The late A. J. North, in his *Nests and Eggs of Birds*, vol. i., pt. lv., 1904, p. 220, remarks of *Malurus lamberti*:—" . . . I had the owners of it (a nest) under almost daily observation for over twelve months, and never at any time saw the male except in his fully adult and distinguished livery."

From my own field notes I have records of two isolated pairs of these birds observed during the winter months, on May 7 and 17, 1929, respectively, at localities separated by some fifteen miles. Both males were exactly alike in colouration, i.e., brownish above, lighter underneath with dull blue tails, and having a thin stripe of sooty black along the side of the neck in a position just below the ear coverts known as the malar region.

As both males seemed loath to leave the company of the female, the question arises, naturally enough, were they old males attaining full plumage after moulting or young males coming into colour? If the latter, why were they paired long before the breeding season, which in the neighbourhood of Sydney extends from August till November?

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**Grass Parrots at Devonport, Tas.**—On the morning of October 6, while returning home from Mersey Bluff, I noted a small party of Grass Parrots (*Neophema*) beside the fence of a paddock on the further side of the road. They were very restless, continually on the move and making short flights, and as I had not the binoculars with me, I was unable to ascertain whether the species was *venusta* or *chrysogaster*. There is little doubt that the party had come across Bass Strait the previous night, as these interesting little Parrots do not remain about Devonport, but prefer to move to more inland paddocks. Some years ago I noted quite a number in the short grass at Harford, six or eight miles east from here; and the Westbury district, about half-way between Devonport and Launceston, used to be much frequented by them.—H. STUART DOVE, R.A.O.U., 24/10/29.