

lower back. Upper tail-coverts bright rufous; middle tail-feathers rufous-brown, the others dusky-grey permeated by the dark band of the under surface. Lores and checks subrufescent, the latter mottled with dark grey; ear-coverts rufescent with pale shaft-streaks. Pal-bearal streak dark in front, rufous in centre, pale posteriorly. Chin, throat, upper breast and flanks, pale rufous passing into dusky-white on the lower breast and abdomen, vent dusky-brown; under tail-coverts bright rufous: tail with a black transverse band occupying the third quarter from the base; thighs and under-wings pale-rufous; bill, legs and feet dead straw. Total length, 85mm., culmen imperfect, wing 50, tail 32, tarsus 21. Tail rounded, four stiff bristles at the gape. Locality, Charleville. Collector, K. Broadbent.

As will be readily noticed, the general colouring of the Scrub-Wren is reddish, and whilst many claim that the colour scheme of a bird plays no great part in taxonomy, the description does not read at all like that of a *Sericornis*. Mathews mentions that the breadth of the culmen would immediately separate a *Sericornis* from a *Crateroscelis* but, unfortunately, the bill of the type was imperfect.

The fact that Broadbent made several collecting trips to New Guinea (1873, 1874-75 and 1878-79) and returned with material, adds strength to the theory that *S. tyrannulus* is a New Guinea bird, especially as Broadbent's paper on the Birds of Charleville contains *no mention of his having collected a Scrub-Wren*. The expedition (the only one to Charleville which I can trace) took place in the year 1883\*.

In view of the facts, the status of the Charleville Scrub-Wren, at any rate as an Australian species, must remain in suspense until it is found again in Queensland or elsewhere.

\*Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld. 111, 1886.

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**Zosterops** sp.—On June 7, 1932, I saw a small company of *Zosterops* feeding in the pepper trees in the State School grounds at Toorak. Their throats and under tail-coverts were of a bright yellow,\* the yellow of the throat extended well down to the breast. The ferruginous markings were comparatively small and dull in colour, whilst the green of the upper surface appeared much brighter. About ten days afterwards, and within a quarter of a mile of this spot, I saw a small flock of *Zosterops halmaturina* = *lateralis* and since then I have seen several flocks in the Botanical Gardens, in the more distant suburbs, and in the country, as well as caged birds, and although these birds have varied slightly, I have not seen again the brightly-coloured birds of June.—(Miss) M. L. WIGAN, R.A.O.U., Melbourne.

\*These characters are indicative of *Z. tephroleura*, but the distribution of that bird appears elsewhere in this volume.—Ed.