



BOWER OR STRIPED-BREASTED SHRIKE-THRUSH  
(*Colluricincla boweri*).

# The Emu

Official Organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

"Birds of a feather."

VOL. XIX.]

1ST JANUARY, 1920.

[PART 3.]

## Bower or Striped-breasted Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla boweri*, Ramsay).

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U.

Two species of Shrike-Thrushes on the Official "Check-list" do not yet appear to have been figured—the Bower and the smaller Rufous-breasted (*C. rufigaster*, Gould). Both are dark-coloured and brownish, but the larger has the breast more striped. The larger also has the more restricted range in North Queensland, being confined chiefly to the scrub-clad coastal mountains from the Herberton River district up to the Cairns district, where the original specimens were procured by the late Mr. Bowyer-Bower, December, 1884.\*

Interesting field and nesting notes on this fine and distinctive Shrike-Thrush are given in the Appendix, "Special Catalogue, No. 1," Australian Museum (North's "Nests and Eggs," iv., p. 416), and more recently a field note by Messrs. Campbell and Barnard appears in *The Emu*, xvii., p. 29.

The sexes of the Bower Shrike-Thrush are alike in coloration. Total length, about 8 inches, with a wing 4 inches.

The specimen figured is an exhibit in the National Museum, Melbourne.

## The Small-billed Tit-Warbler (*Acanthiza morgani*).

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U., MELBOURNE.

THROUGH the generosity of subscribers to the "Coloured Figure Fund," headed by Mr. H. L. White, the Council continues to furnish plates of hitherto unfigured birds.

The plate in the last part (*ante*, p. 81, pl. xix.) portrays the Short-billed Tit-Warbler (*Acanthiza morgani*) (*tenuirostris*) (No. 506, "Official Check-list.") Capt. S. A. White, in naming the plate and writing the note connected therewith, considers the species to be the *Geobasileus hedleyi rosinae* of Mathews.

*Acanthiza morgani* on recent lists has confusingly appeared under different names (both generic and specific)—from Western Australia as *A. iredalei* (Mathews, "List of the Birds of Australia," 1913, p. 217); from South Australia as *Geobasileus hedleyi* (but without ornithological description—practically a "nude name"), with its supposed sub-species *rosinae*—also without tech-

\* Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., vol. x., p. 244 (1885).

nical description; \* and from the Mallee district, Victoria, as *A. winiamida*, F. E. Wilson (*Emu*, xvi., p. 169).

The birds (♂ and ♀), viewed left and right, in the plate referred to, were thoughtfully sent to the Union by its member, Mr. F. E. Parsons, of Adelaide, and were mounted by Mr. J. E. Chubb, of the National Museum, where the specimens will remain. In addition to Capt. White's valuable field observations on the species, Mr. Parsons' own observations appear in the *South Australian Ornithologist*, iv., p. 51. The type of *A. winiamida* is also in the National Museum, while the "H. L. White Collection" contains good material of the species from Western Australia, which, seemingly, is there the lighter-coloured race.†

Should the genus *Geobasileus* be retained for the species, the original specific name, *tenuirostris*, Zietz (*Trans. Roy. Soc. S.A.*, xxiv., p. 112), would remain, as there is no "pre-occupation" as under *Acanthiza*, which Mr. Mathews has pointed out (*Bull. B.O.C.*, xxvii., p. 97). Capt. White could possibly clinch this subject by examining the types (two) in the South Australian Museum, which, according to Mr. A. Zietz, were collected by R. M. Hawker at Leigh's Creek, August, 1895. However, if the types be not available, the late Mr. A. J. North has re-described them in the "Special Catalogue No. 1 (Nests and Eggs, vol. i., p. 281)" of the Australian Museum, Sydney.

While on the subject of coloured plates, I may refer to another *Acanthiza* figured for the first time (*Emu*, vol. xvi., pl. 33), which Capt. White has described (p. 158) and named *A. marianæ*.

Mr. F. E. Howe, in the same volume (p. 175, footnote) draws attention to the species as possibly being *A. robustirostris*, Milligan, *Emu*, iii., p. 71. Reference to the material in the "H. L. White Collection" proves that there are good grounds for Mr. Howe's suspicions, because specimens respectively of *marianæ* from Everard Ranges, S.A., and *robustirostris* from the Murchison, W.A., appear to be identical, and therefore the former is not "most closely allied," as Capt. White suggests, to a variety of *A. uropygialis* (Gould), but is distinctly another species, and, according to Mathews, another genus—*Milligania*.

### Notes on Sea-Birds.

BY MAJOR (DR.) W. MACGILLIVRAY, LATE PRESIDENT R.A.O.U.

THESE notes are the result of observations made daily on my way to England on a troopship in 1917, and on my return to Australia in 1919. Those of most interest to Australians deal with the Petrels and Albatrosses seen on the return voyage, between

\* Same "List," p. 219.

† Under the name *A. tenuirostris*, Mr. S. W. Jackson has described from the Belltrees collection the nest and eggs from Western Australia. One significant fact in connection with the former is that it "was found suspended from the topmost twigs of a low *samphire* bush." (*Vide Emu*, ix., p. 136.) By the way, *Samphire* or *Swamp Tit-Warbler* would be a distinctive vernacular name for the species.