

Maluri Found in Central Australia.

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In the Report on the work of the Horn Scientific Expedition to Central Australia three species of *Malurus* are recorded, *i.e.*—

Malurus melanotus.—Black backed Superb Warbler.

Malurus lamberti.—Lambert's Superb Warbler.

Malurus leucopterus.—White-winged Superb Warbler.

This list came out in September, 1896.

In 1911 the Barclay Expedition passed through the central regions, and Mr. G. F. Hill published his list in *The*

Emu, Vol. 12, p. 238, and here we find that Mr. Hill's observations only allowed him to make sure of two species of *Malurus* between Oodnadatta to some distance north of the Macdonnell Ranges, namely, *Malurus assimilis*, purple-backed Wren Warbler; *Malurus cyanotus*, white-winged Wren Warbler.

After thoroughly working the region under notice I feel perfectly sure that *M. melanotus*, *M. lamberti*, or *M. assimilis* do not occur there, and from a large series of specimens collected the following species are those to be found in the centre of our continent:—

Malurus melanotus callainus—Turquoise Wren.—This is one of, if not the most, beautiful of the family. On approaching the Macdonnell Ranges this little gem is met with amongst the mulga scrub, a locality for which it shows a strong preference to any other, and not once did I see it frequent salt-bush country. It flew high, often over the top of the mulga scrub, and would remain amongst the tops of the trees for hours at a time, but frequently like other members of the genus, captured much of its food on or close to the ground. This bird has a very distinct colouration from *M. melanotus*. This and many distinctive traits in its character in my mind entitles it to specific rank. *M. melanotus*, which is confined to the low mallee belts along the River Murray, is seldom if ever seen far from undergrowth, and when alarmed will skulk away amongst the thickest cover near the ground, while *M.m. callainus* has a peculiar distribution. Occurring on the west side, at the head of Spencer Gulf (where my father procured the type specimens), across through the Gawler Ranges, then along the south side of Lake Torrens, where Dr. Morgan studied it very closely at the time of nidification, and now we find it along the foothills of the Macdonnell Ranges. On being alarmed it flew up on to the top of the highest mulga tree, passing from one tree to another till the bird was lost sight of.

Leggeornis lamberti morgani—Morgan's Wren.—Strange to say, this bird is closely associated with the preceding species, and Mr. Keartland tells us in the proceedings of the Horn Expedition that he procured at one shot a specimen of each, *Malurus melanotus* and *Malurus lamberti*, which birds without the slightest doubt refer to *M.m. callainus* and *M.l. morgani*. I procured my type specimen from the Gawler Ranges, where *M.m. callainus* was fairly plentiful, and throughout the central region they are found associated with one another. *Leggeornis*

lamberti assimilis is a distinct Sub. sp., and although found in the Flinders Ranges does not occur where the above two species are found.

Hallornis cyanotus—White-winged Wren.—This is a common bird throughout the central region, and is a true saltbush lover, seldom, if ever, seen in scrub or timber country. Very often it is the only bird to be found out upon the vast low saltbush plains. The male when, in full nuptial dress, is very shy, and extremely clever in keeping out of sight, especially considering his very striking plumage. His whereabouts is often betrayed by the strange plaintive note of his more sombre-coloured companions. The white-winged wren enjoys a great range of country, extending from twenty miles north of Adelaide to a considerable distance north of the Macdonnell Ranges.
