

A New Scrub Wren.

By S. A. WHITE, M.B.O.U.

Sericornis longirostris wyldei (subsp. n.)—Coorong Scrub Wren.

All upper surface, warm brown; wings, blackish brown; external margins of primaries, yellowish grey; secondaries, reddish brown; spurious wing-feathers, black, with white margins; tail, greyish brown, two central tail feathers strongly washed with rufous; lores, brown; line of white passing across the forehead and over the eyes; throat, white, a few of the feathers having a dark line down the centre; centre of breast and abdomen, pale yellow; sides of breast, grey; flanks and undertail coverts, rufous; iris, dull white; bill, dark brown; feet, reddish brown. Type.—A female taken at the Coorong, March 12th, 1916, and now in the "Wetunga" collection.

These birds were rare, singing morning and evening in the thick masses of lignum, and very seldom showed themselves, being so very timid. The song is very sweet, but of short duration.

This new bird mostly resembles the Victorian form of *Sericornis longirostris*, but differs in having the upper surface of a warm shade of ruddy brown, and in showing little or no striations on the throat, the yellow on the breast and abdomen being much brighter, and in having the flanks and undertail coverts of a deep rufous.

S. l. rosinae shows more striations on the throat, and is a much darker bird throughout.

This new sub-sp. seems to be the smallest of the genus. The Flinders Island bird (*S. flindersi*, White and Mellor) resembles it somewhat, but is much larger. The bird from Flinders Island should be *Sericornis longirostris flindersi*, because it resembles the Victorian bird very much, and is not half the size, or is not at all like *Tasmanornis humilis*. I think Mr. Mathews was quite right in dividing the latter bird into a new genus, but because Flinders Island is closer to Tasmania than Australia does not constitute that *S. flindersi* is a sub-sp. of *T. humilis*.

I have much pleasure in naming the above new bird after Mr. Wylde, sub-editor of the "S.A. Register," who was my companion during the trip, and assisted me much in ornithological research.
