

New Sub-species of Emu Wren.

by

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STIPITURUS MALACHURUS HALMATURINA.
KANGAROO ISLAND EMU WREN.

Twelve examples of Emu Wrens were obtained from Kangaroo Island, while on a short expedition in the company of

Mr. J. N. McGilp during October, 1919, and as might be expected in the case where these weak flying birds had been isolated on an island for undoubtedly a very long period, they show a very marked difference from all the mainland forms.

To put it concisely: Whereas the mainland forms have warm colors on the upper surface of chestnut brown crowns, brown and black backs, the Kangaroo Island forms have a "washed-out" appearance with light brown crowns, light gray and very dark gray backs.

We found that at the time of our visit these little birds were breeding, and most of the adult birds were accompanied by their brood of three young ones, with tails varying in length from about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to almost full length. Our experience of the situation these birds prefer was contrary to expectations. We did not find any birds in the cool, damp gullies, but in every instance they were encountered on the tops of dry, inhospitable flat-topped hills, covered with a low growth of "bull oak," "broom-bush," and "grass-tree."

DESCRIPTION.

Adult Male.—Forehead and fore-crown, sayal brown; the rest of the upper surface, light neutral gray, streaked with dusky neutral gray; upper tail coverts, light neutral gray; lores throat, and upper chest, dutch blue; centre of abdomen, whitish; flanks and lower chest, cinnamon buff; ear-coverts, deep neutral gray, with white centres; wings, very dark gray (almost black), but each feather margined light gray; iris, brown; legs and feet, brown; bill, very dark brown (almost black).

Adult Female.—The whole of the upper surface, light neutral gray, streaked dusky neutral gray, with just a very faint brown wash on the forehead; lores and whole of under surface, cinnamon buff, excepting centre of abdomen, which is whitish; upper tail coverts, light neutral gray; wings, very dark gray (almost black), but each feather margined light gray; iris, legs, feet and bill same as male bird.

Young Male.—The tail feathers were about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; throat and lores, blue, but lighter in color than in the adult male; and the forehead and fore-crown is a gray instead of brown, as in the adult.

Note.—In the descriptions above, the colors are standardized against those in "COLOR STANDARDS AND NOMENCLATURE," by "RIDGWAY."

 MEASUREMENTS OF KANGAROO ISLAND EMU WRENS.

SEX	TIP OF BILL TO BASE OF TAIL.	TIP OF BILL TO TIP OF TAIL.	REMARKS.
♂	7.0 c.m.	19.0 c.m.	Full tail, not worn.
♂	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail slightly worn.
♂	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail not worn
♂	7.0 c.m.	19.7 c.m.	Tail not worn.
♀	7.0 c.m.	18.4 c.m.	Tail not worn.
♀	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail slightly worn.
♀	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail not worn.
♀	7.0 c.m.	17.7 c.m.	Tail not worn.

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