

New Scrub Wren.

Grey Scrub Wren (*Sericornis maculata geraldtonensis*).
Subsp. n. (J. W. Mellor).

While investigating the bird life of Geraldton and the surrounding districts in November, 1920, in connection with the visit of the the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, 1920 Congress to Western Australia, I found that the spotted scrub wrens (*Sericornis*) were quite different from those of the south western parts of Western Australia, where quite different conditions prevail, the habitat of the northern bird being hot and dry, while that of the south-western bird is tree covered and consequently shady and moist. I am therefore separating the northern bird and placing it in a sub-specific rank to be known as the grey scrub wren (*Sericornis maculata geraldtonensis*),

Locality _____ Geraldton district, Western Australia.

Type Locality—Sand dunes along the seacoast near Geraldton, Western Australia.

Differs from *S. maculata* of the southern forest country. inasmuch ;as it is of a lighter colour throughout and greyer

in appearance; also there is a total absence of any yellowish wash on the feathers. The bird may be described as follows — All the upper surface, wings and tail, brownish grey, the tail being crossed with a broad band of blackish brown and tipped with white; a narrow line of white runs from the base of the upper mandible over the eye, forming a white brow, while a broader line runs from the base of the lower mandible down each side of the throat, Spurious wing feathers. black-edged and tipped with white. Under surface greyish white, conspicuously spotted on the throat and chest with brownish black, the spots becoming, less distinct on the sides of the chest mid merging into brownish grey on the flanks, leaving the centre of the breast and abdomen greyish white. Irides yellowish white, bill. very dark; horn , feet, very dark horn.

The same description applies to both sexes.

Total length, 120 m.m.; bill, 1-5 m.m.; wing. 68 m.m.; tail, 55 m.m.; tarsus, 22 m.m.

Type specimen in the -"Mellor Park" collection.

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