

I stood in, and seeing that towing was too hot work to wear a coat, which I left in one of the boats, I even lost this. For four days I was in shirt sleeves, which is not exactly a warm feeling on these early autumn nights. Lost our best rifles and guns too, and best part of ammunition. But we persevered after re-equipping at the stores connected with the Salmon-fishing Company at the mouth of the river, and finally, after prodigiously hard work, each man having nearly a hundredweight on his back to carry over the roughest of ground—impenetrable timber and scrub, as well as tundra—we secured our beasts. The never-to-be-forgotten grandeur of the scenery and superb sunsets, unsurpassed by anything I had seen elsewhere, fell flat. They were not properly appreciated on account of the hardships we endured in the hunt—it was all toil. The season being well advanced (October), it was advisable to make our trail before being caught in the grip of the winter, which sets in very soon, and so we turned the head of our schooner back. Again we got nearly wrecked, and thought it was our last hour, on Cape Elizabeth, in a gale, in which the strong current drove us rapidly on to the rocks, where so many craft have been lost before. However, we got off safely, and only just in time, and reached Kodiak, where we had to wait a week for a steamer. The previous one, the *Oregon*, went down, and so did the one following us, as we learnt when in New York.

But we were to experience a frightful gale yet before getting to Seattle, 14 days' steaming, and things looked very queer at one time. But what a revelation after the storm, in a clear atmosphere, along the mighty ranges of Mount St. Elias and into Icy Bay, up the Skagway, into hundreds of miles of glaciers down to a sea blocked with icebergs, and then, after Juneau, the beautiful forest-clad inside passage of the British Columbian coast—a fit *finale* to a turbulent holiday excursion of seven months, with not an hour's illness, and except bruises I feel none the worse, thank God!

### New Variety of *Zosterops*.

BY DR. GEORGE HORNE, MELBOURNE.

ABOUT eighteen months ago Miss Bowie had in her aviaries a grey *Zosterops*, or White-eye. Unfortunately it died, and was destroyed by a pair of Amherst Pheasants.

Last month we were fortunate enough to obtain another specimen from Morang (Victoria), where the bird-catcher tells me he has often seen them. It forms a marked contrast to *Z. caerulea*—the olive-yellow being replaced by grey. The markings on the primaries are different and the abdomen

darker. The wings are longer and the tarsus shorter than in *Z. caerulea*, and the bird appears rather slighter in contour.

The British Museum Catalogue describes 85 varieties of *Zosterops*, but the only one approaching it is *Z. cinerea*, of Kushai and Ualau Islands. It differs, however, in many respects—notably in the lighter grey upper parts, badly marked eye-ring, brown tail, and yellowish feet. The tarsus, also, is very long.

The following is a detailed description of the new bird:—General colour above, dark ashy-grey on crown, nape, hind-neck, and back; upper tail coverts slightly lighter grey; wing coverts brownish-grey, edged on outer web with lighter grey; primaries grey, edged on outer web with fine margin of dirty-white, and on inner margin with broader band of the same colour; quills very dark brown above, but whitish underneath; forehead slightly darker grey than crown; lores marked with a black streak, which is continued to encircle the lower half of the eye; a ring round the eye of silvery-white feathers, very distinct; ear coverts like the head; cheeks paler than the head; chin and fore-neck ashy-grey, of a lighter colour than the back; breast, abdomen, and under tail coverts of a uniform light grey, somewhat lighter than the neck; sides of the body and flanks light chestnut; thighs like the abdomen and under tail coverts; tail grey, similar to primaries, but not edged on inner web, and edged on outer web with light grey; upper mandible grey; lower mandible light grey; feet slaty-grey; iris brown.

Dimensions in inches:—Total length, 4.5; wing, 2.7; tarsus, .5; tail, 1.8; culmen, .4.

I purpose calling this variety *Zosterops bowia*, or the Grey White-eye.

### Stray Feathers.

CAPE BARREN GEESE.—My friends in Launceston state that it is not an uncommon sight to see these Geese at different spots down the river (Tamar). During a recent visit I had the pleasure of seeing between 20 and 30 of these fine birds feeding in a stubble field, which was on the fringe of a large reed-bed and morass, near that river.—T. HURST. Caulfield (Vict.), 9/5/07.

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STONE-PLOVER IN TASMANIA.—During a recent (Easter) trip to Tasmania, and whilst taking a drive from Launceston to Rosevear's, I saw fully 30 Stone-Plover feeding contentedly in a stubble paddock. I was not aware that the Stone-Plover was found in Tasmania.—T. HURST. Caulfield (Vict.), 9/5/07.

[The first report of the Stone-Plover having been found in Tasmania is contained in *The Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania*, p. xxii.