

14th. As only a few days' provisions remained on the 18th, it was determined to bear down on Borroloola, on the Macarthur River. Moreover, M'Lennan felt he was in for an attack of beri beri, and was without medicine. Borroloola was reached on the 20th. All the inhabitants were at the landing-place, supposing that the *Avis* was the provision boat. The Darwin boat was some time overdue, and the local people were short of supplies. Therefore, M'Lennan could not procure stores, except a little salt beef. Diarrhœa added to M'Lennan's trouble, but Constable Kelly kindly supplied medicine. To make matters worse, Mohr and New had a quarrel, and the latter absconded. With the assistance of the police New was brought back, but obstinately refused to work the boat, so was formally discharged. Thus, short-handed and ill, M'Lennan bravely made a start homeward on the 27th. After sailing several days, owing to incapacity from increasing sickness M'Lennan was compelled to return to Borroloola, which was reached on the afternoon of the 6th May. The patient was carried on shore and put to bed, with a severe attack of beri beri and ague. Luckily, at this critical juncture I was able to engage a boat (lugger) at Thursday Island, which the owner sailed, and rescued M'Lennan in an exceedingly low state of health. On the return trip from Borroloola, the party, for some reason or other, made a detour to the north of Port Roper, but ultimately reached Thursday Island safely. After regaining sufficient strength M'Lennan packed and despatched all his specimens, which were received in good order and condition.

Everard Range Tit-Warbler (*Acanthiza marianæ*).

(S. A. WHITE, *South Australian Ornithologist*, vol. ii., No. 2, 1915.)

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

AFTER entering the granite country west of Indulkana Range, this new *Acanthiza* was met with. It was fairly plentiful in the thick mulga scrubs which extend between the Musgrave and Everard Ranges. In some cases this was the only bird found in these dense, waterless solitudes. The *type*, now in the "Wetunga" collection, is a male collected between Moorilyanna Native Well and the Everard Ranges, in the N.W. of South Australia, by S. A. White on 1st August, 1914.

Description.—All upper surface (with exception of tail coverts) bluish-grey; feathers of the forehead tipped with white, those of the crown having a distinct streak of black down the centre; wings dark brown, each feather edged with greyish-white; tail brownish-black, basal half dull reddish-brown, each feather broadly tipped with buffish-white; upper tail coverts reddish-brown; throat and breast greyish-white; flanks buff; abdomen white; eyebrow and ring round the eye white; iris dark red; bill and feet black. Sexes alike.



THE EVERARD RANGE TIT-WARBLER

Acanthiza marianæ.

Measurements of dry skin.—Total length, 98 mm. ; bill, 9 mm. ; wing, 51 mm. ; tarsus, 19 mm. ; tail, 42 mm.

The bird most closely allied to this species is *Acanthiza uropygialis condor*, but this new species differs in having a stouter bill; the iris is of a very dark shade of red, while that of *A. uropygialis condor* is white. The bluish-grey of the upper surface is of quite a different shade from that of any other *Acanthiza* yet described for Australia.

I have to thank Mr. S. Sandets for mounting this bird for reproduction, as well as the Parrots which appeared in the July *Emu*, 1916, vol. xvi., part I, Plate 1.

Descriptions of New or Rare Eggs.

By H. L. WHITE, R.A.O.U., BELLTREES, N.S.W.

Ninox humeralis, Hombr. and Jacq. (*types*) (*Rhabdoglaux queenslandica*). Queensland Rufous Owl.

During a late trip to Rockingham Bay, North Queensland, in company with Mr. A. J. Campbell, Mr. H. G. Barnard was fortunate enough to secure a full clutch (two eggs) of this extremely rare Owl. I can find no previous authentic description of the eggs. Mr. Mathews, in "Birds of Australia," vol. v., p. 351, mentions a clutch of two eggs, but leaves us in doubt whether he intends his reference to apply to *Ninox rufa* or *Ninox humeralis*. No locality is given, nor is there anything said of the taking. Mr. Barnard sends me a most interesting account of the securing of my specimens; I append it, together with a photograph kindly supplied by Mr. A. J. Campbell.

Mr. Barnard forwarded a pair of skins, which, curiously enough, reached me about the same time as a fine series of *Ninox rufa* specimens secured by Mr. M'Lennan at the King River, Northern Territory, close to Gould's type locality. The two species are very easily separable, and Mr. Mathews's description ("Birds of Australia," vol. v., pp. 350, 351) is readily followed, though he omitted to mention the broad band of white feathers which exists round the necks of immature specimens of *N. rufa*.

The specimens composing my clutch, as mentioned above, are of true *Ninox* shape; colour pure white; texture of shell smooth and glossy, showing numerous pittings when examined with the lens.

Dimensions in inches:—(a) 2.09 x 1.74, (b) 2.12 x 1.74.

Nest in a dead spout of a tall paper-bark tree (*Melaleuca*), in forest near scrub on the Meunga Creek, 3 miles from Cardwell, North Queensland. Tree standing amongst ground-ferns, and about 100 feet in height; nesting-spout about 80 feet from ground. The tree at 4 feet from the ground measured 13½ feet in circumference.