

Two New Subspecies of Birds

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Gymnorhina tibicen eylandtensis. sub sp. n.

Adult Male.—Differs from typical Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) by longer bill, more slender tarsi, intensely black (glossy black) and purer white parts, narrower band of black at tip of tail (30 as against 60 mm.), by the mottled tibia (instead of wholly black), and by less black on the tips of white feathers of shoulder patches.

Adult Female.—Instead of cloudy greyish patch on neck, as in *G. tibicen*, the nape is a pure white, and blends into patch of dusky feathers, which are edged with white, and broadly centred with black.

Immature Male.—Most resembles female, with all the dark portions more or less mottled greyish, blackish-brown, and rust colour, the latter tipping the feathers, particularly on back, breast and face.

Dimensions in mm.—

♂ Length ... 370; wing, 224; cul., 57; tail, 145; tar., 58.

♀ Length ... 370; wing, 220; cul., 53; tail, 145; tar., 50.

♂ Imm. length, 365; wing, 222; cul., 57; tail, 140; tar., 55.

♀ Imm. length, 375; wing, 232; cul., 59; tail, 148; tar., 53.

Dimensions typical *G. tibicen*. See *Proc. Roy. Soc., Vic.*, viii., 1895 (Campbell).

♂ L., 400 mm.; W., 257 mm.; cul., 51 mm.; tail, 152 mm.; tar., 51 mm.

♀ L., 400 mm.; W., 247 mm.; cul., 42 mm.; tail, 152 mm.; tar., 51 mm.

Collected by Mr. W. McLennan, on Groote Eylandt, N.T., 8/5/1921.

Geophaps scripta peninsula. Sub sp. n. The southern variety of this bird has apparently become scarce in many of its former strongholds; it is pleasing to note that a northern form is still plentiful, and it has on more than one occasion supplied Mr. McLennan with a very welcome change of diet. It is a quiet confiding bird, and takes little trouble to hide its nest.

Adult Male.—Smaller and lighter coloured than typical bird. Colour in general above, light drab to drab, instead of snuff-brown to sepia as in type; wing speculum purple, not green; abdomen patch, dull gull grey (see "Color Standards," Ridgway's).

Dimensions.—Length, 286 mm.; wing, 140; tail, 102; tar., 25; cul., 16, as against typical male—*Geophaps scripta*.—Length, 325 mm.; wing, 148; tail, 110; tar., 25; cul., 22.

Collected by Mr. W. McLennan at Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, September, 1921.