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THE EDWARD LYRE-BIRD

(*Menura novae-hollandiae edwardi*)

Male—lower figure.

Female—upper figure.

The Emu

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"Birds of a feather."

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The Lyre-Bird, *Menura novae-hollandiae*,* Latham

A Key to Varieties, or Sub-species.

By A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U., F.A.O.U.

1. Mantle brownish (mummy brown); outer (lyre-shaped) tail feathers notched on the inner web with broad bars of chestnut reaching to the shaft—male; outer tail feathers with narrow bars of chestnut almost reaching to shaft—female.

M. n. victoriae. Victoria Lyre-Bird.

2. Mantle brownish (or fuscous); outer (lyre-shaped) tail feathers notched with hazel bars reaching to within quarter of an inch of shaft—male; tail bars hazel, narrow, and half an inch apart—female. *M. n. novae-hollandiae*. Lyre-Bird.

3. Mantle olive-brown; outer (lyre-shaped) tail feathers notched with tawny or russet bars, reaching to within a quarter of an inch of shaft—male; tail bars tawny, narrow, and three-quarters of an inch apart—female.

M. n. edwardi. Edward Lyre-Bird.

Note.—The above descriptions are taken from material in the "H. L. White Collection," National Museum, Melbourne. *M. n. edwardi* was described by Mr. A. H. Chisholm, R.A.O.U., *Emu*, xx., p. 221, while most valuable field observations on this northern variety, contributed by Dr. Spencer Roberts, R.A.O.U., here follow. It will be observed that the Victoria Lyre-Bird in general coloration is darkest, the common Lyre-Bird lighter, and the Edward lightest. Again, in the Victoria bird the bars of the lyre feathers cross the inner web to the shaft, whereas in the other two varieties the bars fall short of the shaft by about a quarter of an inch. Another interesting point is that in the outer tail feathers of the female Edward bird, the tips are black, or blackish, as in the male. Not so in the other two varieties.

Mr. H. L. White, R.A.O.U., most generously defrays the cost of the accompanying coloured plate.

* Former name *M. superba*, historically the older name, but nomenclators hold that *novae-hollandiae* was first published. A.J.C.