



THE LITTLE TREE-CREEPER
Climacteris minor

Left figure—Male
Ventral view

Middle figure—Male
Dorsal view

Right figure—Female
Ventral view

The Emu

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"Birds of a feather."

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Tree-creepers of the Genus *Climacteris*

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Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, in *The Austral Avian Record*, vol. v., pp. 6-7, and following on his "List of the Birds of Australia" (1913), has rearranged the Tree-creepers (*Climacteris*).

Mr. Mathews "is allowing *C. minor* (the Little Tree-Creeper) as a distinct species." Campbell and Barnard had already shown good grounds why it should be separated. (See *Emu*, vol. xvii., p. 29, which may be read in conjunction with the coloured plate.)

He is "admitting *C. waiti* (as a species) at present." On examination of more material he will find that *C. waiti* (*Emu*, xvii., pl. 1) is the immature bird of the Brown Tree-Creeper (*C. picumna*). The Allied Tree-Creeper (*C. wellsi*), Grant (*Ibis*, 1909, p. 664), appears to be a good species and not merely a sub-species of *C. melanura* (the Black-tailed Tree-Creeper). As Grant has pointed out, *C. wellsi* is a near ally to *C. melanura*, from which it may be readily distinguished. The adult male has the general coloration of the under surface chestnut or Argus brown, not the darker mummy brown; the under tail coverts are strongly barred, not narrowly tipped, white; and the general upper surface is olive brown, not clove brown. The adult female and immature bird differ in similar manner from those of *C. melanura*. The following are the dimensions in mm. of plesiotypes in the "H. L. White Collection," Nat. Mus., Melb.:—

No. 3003, —Length 170, culmen 16, wing 91, tail 70, tarsus 27.

No. 3002, —Length 165, culmen 15, wing 91, tail 63, tarsus 25.

Mr. Mathews, on the grounds of priority, would change the name of the White-browed Tree-Creeper (*C. superciliosa*), North, to *C. affinis*, *Journal Asiatic Society of Bengal*, No. 4, p. 453, 1863. The description, plate, type and type-locality of *C. superciliosa* are all perfectly clear (see Rept. Horn Exp. Central Australia," pt. II., p. 96 and pl. 7). Whereas, technically, the description of *C. affinis* is anonymous (described by "The Curator"), and is of a supposed variety of the Red-browed Tree-

Creeper (*C. erythrops*), which was received from the National Museum, Melbourne. Mr. Mathews says: "I have selected as the type locality"—Broken Hill! Broken Hill was not discovered in 1863, or, at least, the avi-fauna of that locality had not been exploited 60 years ago, so it is quite unlikely that the specimen sent from the National Museum, Melbourne, to India could have been connected in any way with Broken Hill.
