



SCALY-CHESTED FINCH

Drepanola leucophaea, sp. nov.

from a sketch by Sir W. G. Carter, R.A.D.

The Emu

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

"Birds of a Feather."

VOL. XXV.]

1st JANUARY, 1926.

[PART 3

A New Australian Finch.

THE SCALY-CHESTED FINCH, *Donacola lepidothorax*.

BY NEVILLE W. CAYLEY, M.B.O.U.

FOR the privilege of describing and figuring, what appears to be a new species of Finch, I am indebted to Mr. G. A. Heuman, an aviculturist with thirty odd years' experience of Australian Finches.

Many beautiful hybrids are bred in aviaries from time to time, the offspring of some strange matings of birds of quite distinctive genera; the progeny of these mixed matings in most cases, retain certain outstanding characteristics of both their parents; the bird here described, however, was not bred in captivity, and shows, to a marked degree, characters of the three species of the genus *Donacola* found in Australia.

Whether it is a hybrid, or sport, it is quite distinctive, and as such worthy of being placed on record, and given specific rank. For, further information relative to the bird, I refer readers to Mr. G. A. Heuman's article, "Birds in the Northern Territory and the New Finch," appearing in this issue.

The accompanying figure, as well as the description and measurements, are from life.

Adult Female.—General colour above, including the wings, cinnamon-brown, the feathers of the back having ashy tips; rump and upper tail-coverts, orange-yellow; central pair of tail feathers, straw-colour, the remainder brown edged straw-colour on the outer webs; forehead, crown of the head, and nape, ashy-grey, with brown centres to the feathers; lores, a narrow line of feathers over the eye, sides of face, ear-coverts and throat, blackish-brown, with narrow light brown shaft lines on the ear-coverts; fore-neck and chest, white, the feathers having a subterminal bar, more distinct on the sides, followed by a black band broken in the centre; remainder of under surface white, some of the feathers on the sides of the body cinnamon with black and white bars; under tail-coverts black; bill slate-blue; legs and feet slate-black; iris black. Total length in the flesh 110 mm., wing 55, tail 34, culmen 12, tarsus 25.