

water. Also each specimen should have a paper label with particulars written on it with a black lead pencil (not ink) and tied to it before going into the jar. Such label should indicate exactly where found, and if dredged the depth and character of the bottom, also the colouration when alive, as many change colour after death. If any specimens are too large for the jar, such as the larger *Macrura*, they may be first dealt with by dividing the trunk from the abdomen and taking out and discarding the muscles and viscera.

When the specimens are taken out of the jar they should be drained from excess of moisture, and may then be at once packed for transit, or the moisture may be allowed to evaporate in a dry atmosphere for a few days or longer, and afterwards stored in suitable boxes, or they may be wrapped singly or in classified groups in waterproof paper (paraffin-waxed or oiled) with labels outside. If desired they may be coated with a colourless varnish in the manner previously explained.

Small specimens, such as the *Amphipods*, are best kept in bottles containing 70 per cent. alcohol, to make which add to strong methylated spirit a one-fourth proportion of water. They can, however, be treated by the glycerine process if necessary, as specimens here to-night show.

Formalin alone should not be used for *Crustacea*, for even in weak solutions it hardens the articular membranes so that they become too brittle for satisfactory dissection.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW BIRD FROM NORTH-WEST AUSTRALIA.

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My friend, Mr. Keartland, has forwarded me for examination and description a bird skin received by him from Mr. Tom Carter, of Point Cloates, North-west Australia, together with the following note:—"I shot two of these birds on barren, rocky ranges in the dense *spinifex* tufts." The specimen is labelled a female, and was obtained by Mr. Carter on the 1st July, 1899, at North-west Cape, near Exmouth Gulf, North-west Australia. It belongs to an entirely new genus and species, which I characterize as follows:—

ORDER PASSERES.

FAM. TIMELIIDÆ.

Sub-Fam. Timellinæ.

Group *Bradypteri*.

Eremiornis, gen. nov.

Generic characters.

Bill shorter than head, slender, as high as broad at nostril and tapering gradually to the tip; rictal bristles weak, hardly visible;

wings short and rounded, the first primary about half the length of the third ; tail longer than wing, the feathers graduated, broad and rounded at the tips, the central ones equal in breadth to the length of the tarsus ; upper and under tail coverts long, broad, the central upper tail coverts more than half the length of the longest tail feathers, and about equal in length to the outer tail feathers ; tarsi short, slender ; feet small, the middle toe with claw equal in length to the tarsus ; hind toe short, with claw equal in length to middle toe.

EREMIORNIS CARTERI, sp. n.

Adult.—Lores and a distinct eyebrow dull whitish ; forehead rufous, remainder of the upper surface brown tinged with rufous, becoming slightly more rufescent on the rump and upper tail coverts ; wings dark brown, the primaries narrowly edged with dull ashy-rufous, and the secondaries broadly margined on their outer webs with rufous ; lesser wing coverts like the back, the greater series fulvous-brown, with dark brown centres ; tail dark brown, the four outermost feathers on either side tipped with fulvous-brown ; ear coverts pale rufous-brown, with distinct white shaft streaks ; sides of the neck ashy-brown ; throat dull white, passing into buff on the fore-neck and chest ; centre of the breast and abdomen dull white, washed with buff and becoming darker on the sides of the body ; under tail coverts fulvous-brown, with a slight rufescent tinge, and crossed on their apical portion with a broad subterminal brown band, which decreases in extent and is almost lost on the smaller outermost feathers ; under wing coverts pale fulvous-brown ; bill fleshy-brown, basal half of the lower mandible whitish horn colour ; legs fleshy-brown, feet slightly darker. Total length of skin, 5.65 inches ; wing, 2.07 ; central tail feathers, 2.6 ; outer tail feathers, 1.6 ; central upper tail coverts, 1.5 ; bill from forehead, 0.42 ; depth of bill at nostril, 0.11 ; width of bill at nostril, 0.11 ; tarsus, 0.5 ; middle toe 0.4, with claw 0.5 ; hind toe 0.23, with claw 0.4.

Habitat.—North-west Cape, North-west Australia.

The slender bill, short tarsi, small feet, and abnormally long upper and under tail coverts, which conceal the greater portion of its long and broad tail feathers, will serve to distinguish it from any other Australian genus. The long tail, short and rounded wings, and habits would indicate its position as being nearest that group of birds frequenting sterile situations with a sparse and stunted vegetation, among which are included *Amytis*, *Hylacola*, and *Stipiturus*.

Specifically I have much pleasure in associating this bird with the name of its discoverer, an ardent collector and keen observer of bird life in that part of the continent. It will be known by the vernacular name of Carter's Desert-bird.



North, Alfred J. 1900. "Description of a new bird from North-west Australia."
The Victorian Naturalist 17(4), 78–79.

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