

SITTELLA LEUCOCEPHALA, Gould.

Fig. 1.

Sitt. capite, gulâ, corporeque subtus albescentibus, hâc lineis cinereo-fuscis longitudinalibus notato; corpore suprâ cinerescenti-fusco; uropygio albo; caudâ fuscâ albo terminatâ; alis fuscis; primariis, secundariisque latè rufo fasciatis; crisso fusco, albo variegato; rostro aurantiaco, ad apicem fusco; pedibus flavis.

Long. tot. $4\frac{1}{2}$ unc.; rostri, $\frac{5}{8}$; alæ, $2\frac{3}{4}$; caudæ, $1\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$.

Head, throat, and under surface greyish white, the latter with a stripe of greyish brown down the centre of each feather; upper surface greyish brown; rump white; tail blackish brown, the middle feathers slightly and the outer feathers largely tipped with white; wings brown, with a broad mark of rufous across the middle of the primaries and secondaries; under tail-coverts brown, margined and tipped with white; bill orange at the base, blackish brown at the tip; feet yellow.

SYN. *Sittella leucocephala*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V., 1837.

Habitat. Australia: locality, unknown.

SITTELLA CHRYSOPTERA, Swains.

Fig. 2.

Sitt. vertice fusco; nuchâ dorsoque cinerescenti-fuscis; plumis lineâ centrali nigrescente, longitudinalitèr notatis; uropygio tectricibusque caudæ superioribus albis; caudâ nigrescenti-fuscâ, ad apicem (plumis duabus intermediis exceptis) cervinâ; alis intensè fuscis, primariis, secundariisque nonnullis rufo fasciatis; gulâ, corpore subtus, crissoque cinerescenti-albis; hâc fusco fasciato; rostro fusco, ad basin aurantiaco; pedibus flavis.

Long. tot. $4\frac{1}{2}$ unc.; rostri, $1\frac{1}{6}$; alæ, $2\frac{1}{4}$; caudæ, $1\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$.

Crown of the head dark brown; back of the neck and back greyish brown, with a stripe of dark brown down the centre of each feather; rump and upper tail-coverts white; tail blackish brown, all but the two centre feathers tipped with buff; wings dark brown with a large oblique patch of rufous across the middle of the primaries and some of the secondaries, and each feather very slightly tipped with buff; throat and under surface greyish white; under tail-coverts greyish white, crossed near their extremity with brown; bill orange at the base, dark brown for the remainder of its length; feet yellow.

SYN. *Sitta chrysoptera*, Lath. Gen. Syn., Supp., p. xxxii.—Vig. and Horsf. in Linn. Trans., vol. xv. p. 296.

Orange-winged Nuthatch, Lath. Gen. Syn., Supp. vol. ii. p. 146, pl. 227.—Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. viii. p. 126, and vol. xiv. p. 189.—Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. iv. p. 77, pl. LXIII.

Sittella chrysoptera, Swains. Nat. Hist. and Class. Birds, vol. ii. p. 317.

Habitat. Australia: locality, New South Wales.

SITTELLA PILEATA, Gould.

Fig. 3.

Sitt. fronte, strigâ superciliari, gulâ, pectore abdomineque medio albis; vertice nigro; plumis auricularibus, nuchâ, dorsoque cinerescenti-fuscis; hujus lineâ saturatiore per medias plumas excurrente; uropygio albo, tectricibus caudæ, crissoque, cinerescenti-fuscis, fusco alboque variegatis; caudâ nigrâ ad apicem albâ; alis nigrescenti-fuscis, notâ rufâ centrali; lateribus et ventre cinerescenti-fuscis; rostro ad basin flavo, ad apicem nigro; pedibus flavis.

Long. tot. $4\frac{3}{4}$ unc.; rostri, $\frac{7}{8}$; alæ, $3\frac{1}{2}$; caudæ, $1\frac{5}{8}$; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$.

Forehead, stripe over the eye, throat, breast, and centre of the abdomen white; crown of the head black; ear-coverts, back of the neck and back greyish brown, with a small stripe of dark brown down the centre of each feather of the latter; rump white; upper and under tail-coverts greyish brown crossed with an arrow-shaped mark of dark brown, and tipped with white; tail black, the centre feathers slightly and the outer ones largely tipped with white; wings blackish brown, with a large patch of rufous in the centre, interrupted by the blackish brown margins of some of the secondaries, all the feathers slightly tipped with greyish brown; flanks and vent greyish brown; bill yellow at the base, black at the tip; feet yellow.

SYN. *Sittella pileata*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V., 1837.

Habitat. Australia: locality, Swan River.

SITTELLA MELANOCEPHALA, Gould.

Fig. 4.

Sitt. vertice, occipite, plumisque auricularibus nigris; dorso plumisque scapularibus cinerescenti-fuscis; alis nigris, primariis secundariisque, plus minùsve rufo notatis; uropygio, tectricibusque caudæ albis; caudâ nigrâ ad apicem albo notatâ; crisso albo fusco fasciato; palpebris aurantiacis; rostro ad basin carneo, ad apicem nigro; pedibus flavis.

Long. tot. $4\frac{3}{4}$ unc.; rostri, $\frac{3}{4}$; alæ, $3\frac{1}{2}$; caudæ, $1\frac{5}{8}$; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$.

Crown and back of the head and ear-coverts black; back and scapularies greyish brown, with an indistinct mark of dark brown down the centre of each feather; wings black, with a large patch of rich rufous on the centre of the inner webs of the outer primaries, across both webs of the inner ones, and on the inner and a portion of the outer webs of the secondaries, each feather very slightly tipped with greyish white; rump and upper tail-coverts white; tail black, with a spot of white at the extremity of each feather; throat and under surface white; under tail-coverts white, crossed near their extremities with blackish brown; eyelids orange; bill flesh colour at the base, black at the tip; feet yellow.

SYN. *Sittella melanocephala*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V., 1837.

Habitat. Australia: locality, Swan River, on the west coast.

Note. At present I consider these four birds to be distinct, and have characterised them accordingly: but from the little knowledge we possess of the changes they undergo, it may ultimately prove that *leucocephala* and *chrysoptera* are different stages of one species, and *pileata* and *melanocephala* of another.



1. *Sitta leucocapitata.*
2. ----- *chrysopetra.*
3. ----- *pileatus.*
4. ----- *melanocephala.*



Gould, John and Gould, Elizabeth. 1838. "Sittella melanocephala, Gould." A *synopsis of the birds of Australia, and the adjacent islands* (4), –.

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