

# The Emu

Official Organ of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

"Birds of a feather."

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[PART I.

## Cooper's Creek Tree-creeper (*Climacteris waitei*).

(S. A. White, *Emu*, vol. xvi., part 3, January, 1917.)

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THE first example of this new species was met with in the vicinity of "Burke's Tree." My attention was first drawn to it by the familiar sharp call of the genus. Directly afterwards a small family party was observed flying from one tree-trunk to another, which they circled in true *Climacteris* fashion—in short hops, and tail pressed firmly against the bark when ascending the perpendicular tree-trunk.

As soon as the first specimen was secured I felt sure that it was a new bird. After this, and during the time the Cooper was followed down, these birds were often seen, but as soon as permanent waters were left behind the Tree-creeper was lost sight of. Many immature birds were in company with the parents, and being fully fledged denoted that they were hatched in June or July.

*Climacteris waitei* showed a great preference for the box timber, for it was not once seen amongst the large red gum trees on the banks of the creek. These birds were observed once or twice hopping over the ground in close proximity to tree-trunks, and seemed to be in search of insects—most likely ants, for the last-named form the chief food of *C. superciliosa* in some parts of the interior. How far this new species is found along the Cooper into Queensland I had no way of ascertaining, and it may extend much further in the other direction during flood-time.





THE COOPER'S CREEK TREE-CREEPER  
*Climacteris waitei*.



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