SERICULUS MELINUS (*Lath.*).

Regent Bird.

Yellow-bellied Thrush, Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl. ii. p. 187 (1801).

Turdus melinus, Lath. Ind. Orn. Suppl. ii. p. xliv (1801).—Vieill. N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xx. p. 243 (1818).—Id. Enc. Méth. ii. p. 647 (1822).

Meliphaga chrysocephala, Lewin, Birds of New Holland, p. 10, pl. 6 (1808).

Turdus mellinus, Steph. in Shaw's Gen. Zool. x. p. 240 (1817).

Golden-crowned Honey-eater, Lath. Gen. Hist. iv. p. 184 (1822).

Oriolus regens, Quoy et Gaim. Voy. Uranie, p. 105, pl. xxii. (1824).—Temm. Pl. Col. ii. pl. 320 (1825).—Wagl. Syst. Av., Oriolus, sp. 2 (1827).

Sericulus chrysocephalus, Swains. Zool. Journ. i. p. 478 (1825).—Vig. & Horsf. Trans. Linn. Soc. xv. p. 326 (1826).—Steph. in Shaw's Gen. Zool. xiv. p. 266 (1826).—Jard. & Selby, Ill. Orn. i. pls. xviii., xix., xx. (1827).—Less. Traité d'Orn. p. 340 (1831).—Swains. Classif. B. ii. p. 237 (1837).—Gould, B. Austr. iv. pl. 12 (1847).

Sericulus regens, Less. Voy. Coquille, Zool. i. p. 640, pl. 20 (1826).—Id. Man. Orn. i. p. 256 (1828).—Id. Ois. Parad., Syn. p. 21.—Id. Hist. Ois. Parad. pls. 26, 27 (1835).

Sericulus magnirostris, Gould, P. Z. S. 1837, p. 145.

Sericulus mellinus, Gray, Gen. B. i. p. 233 (1845).—Bp. Consp. Av. i. p. 349 (1850).

Sericulus melinus, Gould, Handb. B. Austr. i. p. 456 (1865).—Ramsay, Ibis, 1866, pp. 325, 330.—Schl. Mus. Pays-Bas, Coraces, p. 99 (1867).—Ramsay, Ibis, 1867, pp. 415, 456.—Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 293, no. 4333 (1869).—Elliot, Monogr. Parad. pl. xxxii. (1873).—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. ii. p. 188 (1878).—Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vi. (1881).—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. (2) i. p. 1138, pl. xix. fig. 4 (1887).—North, t. c. pp. 1160, 1173.—Ramsay, Tab. List Austr. B. p. 11 (1888).—North, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. (2) iii. p. 1780 (1889).—Id. Nests & Eggs Austr. B. p. 181 (1889).—Id. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. (2) v. p. 507 (1891).—Campbell, Proc. R. Soc. Victoria, new ser. v. p. 128 (1893).—Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, iv. p. xiv (1894).

This splendid Bower-bird is one of the best known of the whole family, as it is one of the finest and most conspicuous species. It appears to be strictly confined to Eastern Australia, where Dr. Ramsay gives its range as New South Wales, and the Wide Bay, Richmond, and Clarence river districts. Mr. Gould's experience of the distribution of the species was as follows:—"It is occasionally seen in the neighbourhood of Sydney, which appears to be the extent of its range to the southward and westward. I met with it in the brushes at Maitland in company with, and feeding on the same trees as, the Satin- and Cat-Birds, as well as the Green Oriole (*Mimeta viridis*). It is still more abundant on the Manning, at Fort Macquarrie, and at Moreton Bay. I sought for and made every inquiry for it at Illawarra, but did not meet with it, and was informed that it was never seen there; yet the district is precisely similar in character to those in which it is abundant, about two degrees to the eastward. While encamped on Mosquito Island, near the mouth of the River Hunter, I shot several, and observed it to be numerous on the neighbouring islands, particularly Baker's Island, where there is a fine garden, and where it commits serious injury to the fruit-crops." Mr. A. J. Campbell has recorded a specimen from Duaringa, near the Fitzroy River, and he believes this to be the most northern range of the species.

Everywhere it appears to be the case that the males in full plumage are much more shy and difficult to procure, while the females and young males are not only much tamer, but are very much more plentiful. Mr. Gould never succeeded in obtaining a nest of the Regent Bird; but the nest was found at Moreton Bay by Mr. F. Strange, who described it as "rudely constructed of sticks, no other material being employed, not even a few roots as a lining." Dr. E. P. Ramsay found a nest at Taranya Creek, in the Richmond River district, built in a cluster of "Lawyer Vines" (*Calamus australis*). In shape the nest was like that of *Collyriocincla harmonica*, and composed of twigs, mosses, leaves, &c., about five inches across by three deep. The bower was first described by Mr. C. Coxen, who received the details from Mr. Waller, of Brisbane, a well-known Australian naturalist and collector. While shooting in a scrub on the banks of the Brisbane River, Mr. Waller saw a male Regent Bird "playing on the ground, jumping up and down, puffing out its feathers, and rolling about in a very odd manner, which occasioned much surprise, as he had never seen the bird on the ground before. The spot where it was playing was thickly covered with small shrubs, and