

## EOPSALTRIA LEUCURA, Gould.

### White-tailed Robin.

*Eopsaltria leucura*, Gould in Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 4th ser., vol. iv. p. 108.

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THE late John Gilbert was probably the first person who shot this fine species of *Eopsaltria*, of which I have had a mutilated skin, obtained by him at Port Essington, in my possession for the last twenty years. The specimen alluded to is too imperfect for describing or figuring; but I am enabled to supply these desiderata from two others now before me in the finest state of preservation. Unfortunately nothing is known respecting the *Eopsaltria leucura*, except that it inhabits the great beds of mangroves bordering the coasts of the northern part of Australia (to which, according to Mr. Cockerell, it is confined), that it is very quiet in all its actions, and rather rare in the neighbourhood of Somerset. There appears to be no difference whatever in the colouring of the sexes, in which respect this new species assimilates to the little group of Yellow-breasted Robins (*Eopsaltria australis*, *E. griseogularis*, &c.). Its nearest ally is the *E. leucogaster* of Western Australia; but it differs from that species in being of larger size, and in the basal portion of the five outer tail-feathers on each side being white.

The following description of the colouring of this new species was published by me in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' above referred to:—

"Forehead, lores, and a line nearly surrounding the eye and the ear-coverts black; head and upper surface dark leaden grey, fringed posteriorly with greyish white; wings blackish brown, darkest on the shoulders; upper tail-coverts black; two centre tail-feathers black, the next on each side black, with a stripe of white on the basal part of the shaft and outer web; the remaining four on each side white at the base, and black for the remainder of their length; all the under surface and the under tail-coverts white, with the exception of a broad band of pale grey across the breast; bill and feet black.

"Total length  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bill  $\frac{1}{8}$ , wing  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , tail 3, tarsi 1."

"*Habitat*. The Cape-York district," and other parts of the north coast as far as the Coburg Peninsula. The figures are supposed to represent a male and a female, of the size of life.