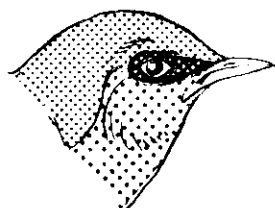


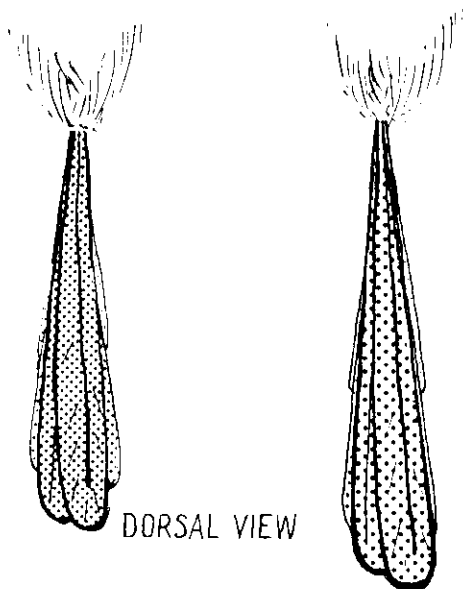
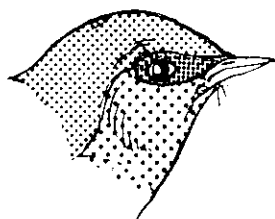
By H. J. de S. Disney and drawings by Sondra Beresford, Australian Museum, Sydney.

This "Bird in the Hand" only covers the differences between the eastern forms of the Blue Wren (excluding the Tasmanian race), and the Variegated Wren. The latter ranges from southern Queensland to approximately 150 miles south of Sydney. It does not include the Purple-backed or other forms of Variegated Wren.

M. LAMBERT!



M. CYANEUS



DORSAL VIEW

**R.A.O.U. No. 529 Superb Blue Wren**  
(*Malurus cyaneus*)

**MALE—**

**Adult:** Breeding plumage. See Cayley. Winter or non-breeding plumage. Similar to female except bill black; tail deep blue; lores and circle round eye buff.

**Immature:** Similar to adult female with red brown bill and orange brown lores and eye circle, but tail deep blue.

**Juvenile:** Similar to immature but tail brown.

**FEMALE—**

**Adult:** See Cayley. Bill orange brown; lores and circle round eye orange brown; tail brown with blue tinge on inner webs, except centre feathers. When breeding, with greenish blue lights (Rowley).

**Immature:** Not known if distinguishable from adult.

**Juvenile:** Similar to male juvenile.

Diagnostic character of brown birds from similar Variegated. Orange brown loreal streak and circle round eye. Tail brown or deep blue, 53-62mm (39 measured). For life history and excellent plate of male plumages see: Rowley, Ian, 1965. The Life History of the Superb Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*). *Emu*, 64: 251-297.

**R.A.O.U. No. 536 Variegated Wren**  
(*Malurus lamberti*)

**MALE—**

**Adult:** Breeding plumage. See Cayley. Winter or non-breeding. Similar to Blue Wren. Bill black; Lores and round eye greyish similar to ear coverts; Tail similar to breeding plumage dull greenish blue.

**Immature:** Similar to female.

**Juvenile:** Similar, but tail brown (North, A. J.).

**FEMALE—**

**Adult:** See Cayley. Bill reddish brown. Loreal streak and circle round eye broad and rufous. Tail similar to male, dull greenish blue.

**Immature:** Similar to adult.

**Juvenile:** Similar to male juvenile.

Diagnostic character of brown birds from Blue Wren. Broad rufous loreal streak and circle round eye. Tail brown or dull greenish blue 63-81mm (29 measured).

**References**

Cayley, Neville W.: "What Bird is That?" Sydney.  
North, A. J., 1904: "Nests and Eggs of Birds, Australia and Tasmania." Vol. 1, Part 4, p. 222.