

the bird as an immature male of the common Brown Tail, particularly as the month was that in which so many young birds are procurable, but the actions and note of this individual were so totally different from that of the Tasmanian *Acanthiza* that no doubt is left in my mind as to its distinctness. The common species is gregarious, nearly always being found in little parties, which flit about with great zest and activity, uttering in unison their peculiar little note, which may be syllabised, *zit, zit, zit, whoorl*, the latter being somewhat guttural. The note of my new species resembles, *tit, tit, too, woo*, the latter syllables being soft and melodious.

The dimensions of this example were as follow:—

Length, 4.0 inches; wing, from carpal joint, 1.9; tail, 1.9; tances, 0.75; bill, to gape, 0.45. Iris light red (paler than in the common species); bill, brown, slaty at the base; legs and feet dark olive brown. The contents of the stomach were small ants and minute coleoptera, mixed with some curious globular masses, resembling hard seeds. There can be little doubt that this bird is, in reality, the *Acanthiza ewingi* of Gould; which should, therefore, be reinstated in the Tasmanian avifauna.

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#### NOTE ON THE VORACITY OF THE KELP FISH.

While fishing for crayfish recently, on the East Coast, I caught a couple of so-called "Kelpfish" in the net. This fish, belonging to the family *Labridæ*, is a favorite bait with fishermen for the crayfish caught in hand nets, and is found in moderately shallow water, sometimes, and at others in deep pools, but always in beds of kelp. On opening the individuals I caught I was surprised to find their stomachs full of the small white, conical, and calcareous shells which cover the tops and sides of rocks, which are covered at high water; but among these were also moderately large limpet shells swallowed whole, the fish, in some instances, being still attached to the shell. Enclosed are some of these shells from the stomach of one of the fish, which was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. in weight. I examined its strong, circular teeth, and found one tooth gone at the point of each jaw, evidently wrenched out by the force of grasping such a strongly attached shell-fish as the limpet. But great as the strength required to detach a limpet, it must be nothing to the grinding, gnawing motion required to tear off the small, scarcely protuberant calcareous shells first mentioned, and with which the stomachs were pretty well filled.

It is a singular trait in the economy of this fish, which leads it to subsist on such an apparently unappetising mass as had formed the meal of these examples just prior to my catching them.