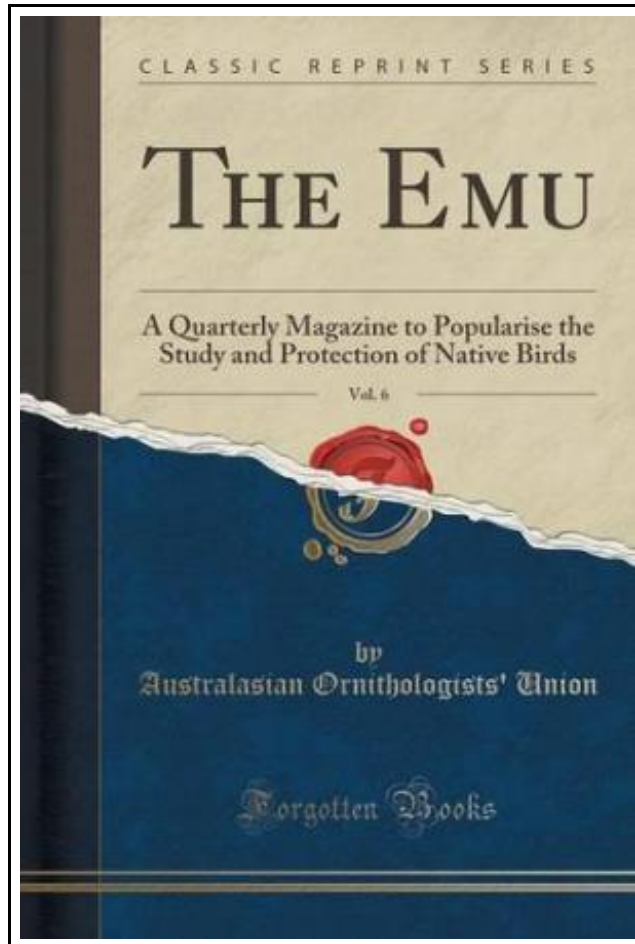


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from The Emu, Vol. 6: A Quarterly Magazine to Popularise the Study and Protection of Native Birds Four species of Sphen acus are found inhabiting the islands of New Zealand, and all are peculiar to the region. *S. punctatus* is the best known, being met with in each of the main islands. A larger and paler form, *S. fulvus*, also occurs in the South Island; *S. caudatus* is found in the Snares, and *S. rufescens* on Mangare, one of the Chatham group. The Fern-Bird is not uncommon in localities suited to its mode of life, but, being of a shy and cautious nature, is not often seen; still its monotonous call is sure to attract the attention, whether it be heard in the dense swamp of flax and raupo or in some rough creek skirted by scrub and fern. A favourite haunt is among the patches of rushes and cutting-grass which fringe the edges of low-lying swamps and lagoons, and often stretch up into the surrounding gullies. In the open virgin country it may occasionally be heard amongst the dense fern and scrub in the gullies or damp flats. It does not penetrate the bush, nor ascend to high altitudes. Large expanses of waste appear to suit the Fern-Bird best, and it is never noticed in the small patches of swamp in settled districts, nor about open creeks. It is a difficult matter to study the habits of a bird which has its home among such dense and tangled growths. The movements of the Fern-Bird are quite mouse-like, and, if occasion demands, extremely rapid. It is a wary little creature, and usually found singly. This would...

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