Jaunty little Blue - Cap!
To our garden welcome;
Whither hath been roving?
From what distant dell come?
Miril - Yiril - Yiri,
All thy ways are winning;
Welcome with thy brown mate,
Modest Minning - Minning.

If in early summer
Thro' the wild we ramble,
We may spy thy grass-nest,
Hidden in a bramble;
Miril - Yiril - Yiri,
When the bushwood's thinning,
Seek ye then our hedges,
Thou and Minning - Minning.

Darting thro' the bushes;
O'er the green the hawk hopping;
Cheeping low - sweet love-notes;
Scarcely ever stopping:
Miril - Yiril - Yiri,
What tales art thou spinning
All day to thy dainty
Mistress, Minning - Minning?

Thou'rt of wrens the fairy,
-Bonnie azure - bonnet;
Elf or Sprite of Birdland;
Theme for song and sonnet.
Miril - Yiril - Yiri;
Here, no noises dinning,
Reap in peace a russet
Brood with Minning - Minning.

But beware the Cuckoo,
Kurrguling the lazy!
Lurking round the thickets,
Driving small birds crazy.
Miril - Yiril - Yiri,
Don't give her an inning,
Else there'll be an outing,
Mark that, Minning - Minning.

Should an egg she drop in,
Thro' your open doorway,
By and bye your nestlings
Will be in a poor way!
Miril - Yiril - Yiri,
Right at the beginning,
Chase the sly intruder;
Chase her Minning - Minning.

Dusky vanished people
In far inland places
Gave those names soft-sounding,
Suiting well your graces:
Miril - Yiril - Yiri,
Thou and Minning - Minning
Gained their love, gain our love,
By your ways so winning.
NOTE:

Mrs. Daisy M. Bates, of Ooldea, on the Transcontinental Railway line, where she is located for the philanthropic purpose of caring for the aborigines of Central Australia, and all the regions thereabouts, and upon whose language and customs, she is a recognised authority, in her lists of aboriginal words, including the names of many native birds, plants etc., gives the very euphonious ones of the Blue or Fairy Wren and his little brown mate. The name of the former is "Miril - Yiril - Yiri" and of the latter "Minning-Minning". There is also the Cuckoo, "Kurrguling", which makes a practice of laying an egg in the little grass nest of the wrens, who, after their own nestlings have been shouldered out by the selfish and greedy intruder, after the manner of young Cuckoos, have to supply its voracious appetite. Whether or not "Kurrguling" is the smaller bronze Cuckoo, which usually makes use of the Wren's nest, may be arguable, but it matters not much, for it is a Cuckoo, though it appears that the "Mopoke" and some species of Owl (perhaps the Boobook) are sometimes called "Kurrguling".

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by the writer to Mrs. Bates
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