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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORNITHOLOGY OF THE PAPUAN ISLANDS.

By THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD AND ERNST HARTERT.

(The work of these "contributions" is so divided that Walter Rothschild works out the families *Paradisidae*, *Ptilonorhynchidae*, and *Rallidae*, while E. Hartert is responsible for the rest.)

### IV.\*

#### LIST OF A COLLECTION MADE BY ALBERT S. MEEK ON FERGUSSON, TROBRIAND, EGUM, AND WOODLARK ISLANDS.

MR. ALBERT S. MEEK, an energetic young collector, spent some time on the above-named islands, where, besides collecting insects and other natural history specimens, he brought together a most interesting collection of birds, which are specially valuable because many of them are accompanied by their nests and eggs. Though the bird collections are evidently not exhaustive for any of these islands, they greatly enlarge our knowledge of these imperfectly explored regions.

The bulk of the ornis of Fergusson Island is the same as that of South-Eastern New Guinea, but some very fine species, such as *Paradisaea decora*, *Phonygama hunsteini*, *Cyclopsittacus virago*, perhaps also *Anthreptes meeki* and others, are evidently restricted to the D'Entrecasteaux group, while some peculiar species they have in common with other islands east of New Guinea. The ornis of the Trobriands and of Egum and Woodlark differs on the whole probably not very much from that of Fergusson.

In the southern part of Fergusson, where Mr. Meek collected, the mountains rise steeply close to the coast. The spurs are or have been cultivated up to a height of about 1500 feet, but higher up no villages were met with. The island is thickly populated in parts, especially towards a place named Dobu, but a great quantity of large timber stands in the forests wherever the ground has not been cultivated. The natives are very honest, but they are frightened at even the idea of ascending the higher mountains of their island.

Kirvirai, Kiriwina, or Kiriwini, the largest island of the Trobriands, is, like the smaller islets of that group, a coral island and quite flat. Meek tells us that it is very thickly populated, the estimated number of natives being 30,000. They are a fine-built race and all under one chief, every village again under a sub-chief. The whole island has at one time or another been cultivated, with exception of some extremely rough places on the coast. Where the natives plant gardens they pile the coral into heaps and plant between them. The gardens look much like an English

\* For Nos. I., II., III. see *antèa*, pp. 8-20.



hop-garden, only very much larger, some of them extending for over a mile in length. Where the island is not just now under cultivation it is thickly covered with short vegetation, very difficult to get through. The only large timber extends in a narrow belt around the coast, or is scattered in small groups to protect the villages.

Yanarba Island, Egum group, is one of some small islets between the D'Entrecasteaux Islands and Woodlark. It was not visited by Meek himself, but some of his native collectors spent a few days there. Egum group consists only of small coralline islands.

Woodlark Island, or Mayu, consists chiefly of corals, but some mountains seem to have pierced the coralline capping and occupy about one-fourth of the island. It is very little cultivated, the natives living on sago a great deal. Owing to the scarcity of thick undergrowth it is, as on Fergusson, easy to get about, and in that way very different from the Trobriands. The southern part is least populated, but on the north coast are two or three large villages. The natives all know a few words of English, and some speak it very fairly. Skin disease (probably *ichthyosis*) is very common among them.

### 1. *Corvus orru* Bp.

Fergusson Island. Like specimens from other localities, with a purplish gloss, and not at all like the *Corvus* spec. described by Salvadori in *Orn. Papuasie* with a greenish gloss.

A nest with four eggs was found on January 22nd. They are exactly like the eggs of other species of crows, and if mixed with eggs of *Corvus corone*, or *C. cornix* especially, would hardly be found again, though the shell seems rather thick. They measure 40.5 : 29, 42 : 28, 41 : 28.5 mm. E. H.

### 2. *Gymnocorax senex* (Less.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris light blue."

### 3. *Manucodia comrii* Schl.

Evidently not rare in Fergusson and Kiriwina. The iris is described on the labels as "red" and "light hazel." Nests, containing two eggs each, were found in March on Fergusson Island, one clutch being fresh, the other very hard-set. The nest hangs in the fork of a branch, the upper margin being in equal height with the branch, just as an oriole's nest hangs. It is fastened with thin twigs of a convolvulus-like plant and other twigs. It is lined inside with these convolvulus-like twigs. The bottom is very thick, and outside ornamented with large thick leaves, and in the middle of the bottom layer are a good many pieces of rotten wood.

The eggs are of a pale buffy salmon-colour, one clutch with a more greyish tint, shaped like crows' eggs, marked with underlying pale cinereous and pale purplish brown patches, and with dark brown or rufous brown blotches. They measure 29 : 43 and 30.5 : 45.5 mm.

The *female* is much smaller than the *male*. Specimens from the different islands do not differ.

Mr. Basil H. Thomson (*Ibis*, 1889, p. 554) states that *M. comrii* is "confined exclusively" to the D'Entrecasteaux group. This statement was somewhat unwarranted, since the surrounding countries were not yet explored. We know now that it is not only found on the islands of the D'Entrecasteaux group, as Meek found it on the Trobriands and the type came from the Huon Gulf in New Guinea. W. R.



4. *Phonygama hunsteini* Sharpe ( = *Manucodia thomsoni* Tristr.).

Fergusson. Tristram (*Ibis*, 1889, p. 554) was the first to publish the proper locality for this rare bird, but Sharpe's short description has precedence. The tail is strongly hen-tail-shaped in the old *male*, less so in the *female*, and hardly perceptibly in very young birds. The webs of the central rectrices in the fully adult *male* stand nearly perpendicular at the tip, but they are not twisted so far as to open again, as they are in *Manucodia comrii*, which Sharpe placed in a special genus by itself, calling it *Eucorax*. "The iris is red." The *female* does not perceptibly differ in colour, but is a little smaller than the *male*; wing in the *female* 180, in the *male* 186 mm. The young birds are all over black, with a steel-blue gloss, but without any green or purple, the head being uniform with the rest of the upper surface.

Mr. Meek met with this species in the hills, but seldom below 1500 feet.

W. R.

5. *Paradisea decora* Salv. & Godm.

From Fergusson Island. "Iris yellow in both sexes." Mr. Basil H. Thomson (*Ibis*, 1889) says that this species only inhabits Mount Maybole, in the north of Fergusson Island; but Meek never was there. He found it not rare, though by no means very numerous, on the hills of South Fergusson, from about 1500 feet upwards.

W. R.

6. *Calornis metallica* (Temm.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris red." Like specimens from New Guinea.

Some eggs, said to belong to this species, were found on Kiriwina, Trobriands; but no skin was sent with them. As, however, Mr. Meek is well acquainted with this species from his collecting in Queensland, Fergusson Island, and other places, and as the eggs agree with eggs of this species from other places, there can be little doubt about their identity.

E. H.

7. *Cracticus cassicus* (Bodd.).

Fergusson and Trobriands. The extent of black and white on the back varies very much, *females* and young birds having the back nearly quite black, old *males* white with a black patch in the middle. Nests, containing clutches of two and three eggs, were found from September to January. The eggs are ovate, some more pointed than others, and vary much in colour. They are pale olive, brownish olive, bluish olive-green, marked with faint patches of dark olive-brown or brown and some small blackish brown spots, mostly more numerous near the broader end. They measure 32·5 to 33 : 24 to 26 mm.

E. H.

8. *Pachycephala dubia* Rams.

Fergusson Island. "Iris blackish."

9. *Pachycephala fortis* Gadow.

Gadow, *Cat. B.* VIII. p. 369 (Addenda).

Both sexes, nests, and eggs from Fergusson Island. Iris dark hazel. I have compared our specimens with the type of *P. fortis* in the British Museum, and found no differences. This is the more to be wondered at as the birds from the little Trobriand group differ from those from Fergusson. Hereafter I shall describe the differences between the two forms. Two nests are quite alike. They consist of dry



grasses, fibres, and twiglets, and are outside covered with dry leaves of different sorts. The cup is somewhat shallow, being about 30 to 40 mm. deep, the whole nest being outside about 90 to 100 mm. broad, 50 to 60 high, while the cup measures 65 across on the top. The eggs, of four clutches, are two in each nest. They are elliptical ovate, and resemble very much some eggs of the genus *Lanius*, especially those of some of the larger grey shrikes. The ground-colour is whitish or cream-colour, the blotches dark brown and pale grey, generally more numerous on the thicker end. They measure 27 : 20, 25·6 : 18, 27·5 : 19, 27·5 : 19·1, 26·1 : 18, 25·9 : 17·7, 27·8 : 19, 28·5 : 19·3 mm.

Eggs were found in October, November, and December.

E. H.

#### 10. *Pachycephala fortis trobriandi* subsp. nov.

Two skins, ♂ and ♀, from Kiriwina, Trobriands, differ from *P. fortis* of Fergusson in the following points:—

1. The bill is longer. The culmen of the *male* is 26, that of the *female* 25 mm. long, while the culmen of the *males* from Fergusson is 22 and 23 mm. long, that of the *females* from that island 22 and 21 mm.

2. The wing is longer: ♂ 100, ♀ 96 mm. *Females* from Fergusson: wing, 88 and 90; *males*, 90 and 95.

Coinciding with these differences, which are so slight that I regard them, with due reserve, as of merely subspecific value for the present time, are obvious differences in the structure of the nest and in the eggs.

The nest is much larger outside, the cup decidedly deeper. The eggs (two in number in each clutch) were found in March and June. The eggs are white, with a faint creamy tinge, marked with a few very large blotches of deep rufous brown or very deep brown, and some deeper-lying light-grey patches. They measure 25·3 : 21, 26·5 : 20·6, 26·1 : 20 mm., and look much more rounded than the majority of *P. fortis* from Fergusson.

All these differences of nests and eggs may not be quite constant, but in any case they are worth recording.

It is remarkable that even the collector seems to have noticed differences in life between the two forms, for on the labels of the nests and on the chip-boxes containing the eggs different names are given, the Fergusson birds being called "Little Brown Thrush," the Trobriand birds "Brown Thrush," and he believes them to be different forms.

E. H.

#### 11. *Chibia carbonaria* (S. Müll.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris red."

Canon Tristram has (*Ibis*, 1889, p. 556) described as a new species the *Chibia* from Fergusson Island, and called it *Ch. propinqua*. His diagnosis is: "*C. chibiae laemostictae* (Scl.) propinqua, sed differt maculis nitentibus colli antici imi et pectoris summi valde angustioribus, et elongatis, neque, sicut in *C. carbonaria*, rotundatis. Statura sicut in *C. laemosticta*," and he adds: "The distinctions in this species are more easily seen by comparison than recognised by description." I am sorry to say that the skins collected by Mr. Meek on Fergusson Island do not agree with Canon Tristram's statement. They are, in my opinion, indistinguishable from *C. carbonaria*, of which I have a large series from Dutch, German, and British New Guinea for comparison in the Tring Museum. The spots on the upper breast are in no way more longitudinal or narrower than in a great many specimens of *Chibia carbonaria*, but



they vary a great deal in the latter and are by no means always round. In fact, there are specimens of *Ch. carbonaria* before me in which they are narrower and longer than in the specimens from Fergusson Island. Therefore I have no hesitation in considering *Ch. propinqua* merely a synonym of *Ch. carbonaria*. This latter is fairly distinct from *Ch. atrocaerulea* from the Moluccas, and must, I think, stand as a species, *not* merely a subspecies. On the other hand it seems sometimes very difficult to distinguish *Ch. laemosticta* Scl. from New Britain and New Ireland, and I am inclined to think that the latter should stand as a subspecies of *Ch. carbonaria*.

I feel uneasy about the genus under which to classify these species. They have often been included in *Dicrurus*, but Sharpe unites them with *Chibia* and Salvadori calls them *Dicruropsis*. I do not see much of generic characters in either of these supposed genera.

Nests, with three eggs each, were found in October and December. The eggs are of two principal sorts of varieties. One has the shell pure white, without gloss, covered with small deep purplish brown and pale purplish grey spots and dots. These measure 29.6 : 21.3, 30 : 21, and 29.8 : 21.6 mm. The other is of a creamy ground-colour, and spotted with larger patches of a kind of brownish brick-red and the same pale purplish grey patches, but mostly larger. They are a little shorter, measuring 29 : 22, 29 : 21.5, and 29.1 : 22 mm. E. H.

## 12. *Melilestes fergussonis* sp. nov.

*Melilestes* speciebus *M. iliolophus* et *M. affinis* dictis similis, sed multo major. Al. ♂ 71—72 mm., ♀ 63—64; culm. ♂ 25, ♀ 21 mm.

*Hab.* Fergusson Island.

This species closely resembles in colour *M. iliolophus* and *M. affinis*, if the two are more than subspecies of one species, and is probably only subspecifically distinct. The differences in size, especially in the length of the bill, and the separate locality whence we have received it, however, are remarkable. The iris is dark hazel; bill black; about basal half of mandible whitish.

The sexes differ in size, as they also do in *M. iliolophus* and *M. affinis*, but it seems that this was not noticed before.

Gadow, *Cat. B.* IX., has placed the above-named species in the genus *Arachnothera*, together with *M. novaeguineae*, while he allowed *M. megarhynchus* to remain among the *Meliphagidae* and put it in the genus *Ptilotis*. Without wishing to enter into a discussion on the genera of the *Meliphagidae*, which, I believe, are on the whole divided very reasonably in the *Catalogue of Birds*, I cannot agree to that, as I believe that *M. megarhynchus*, *M. novaeguineae*, *M. iliolophus*, and allies are all congeneric, and differ widely from *Arachnothera* in the form of the bill and nostrils. On the other hand they differ from true *Ptilotis*, and one might for the present accept without hesitation Salvadori's generic name *Melilestes*, with *M. megarhynchus* as the "type," and including *M. novaeguineae*, *iliolophus*, *affinis*, *fergussonis*, *poliopterus*, and probably also *Melilestes celebensis* and subspecies (see *antea*, p. 153), which latter is certainly *not* an *Arachnothera*. It differs also from the Papuan *Melilestes* in its short tarsus and toes, its naked ring round the eye, and a narrower bill. Another question which I have often asked myself and which I cannot answer to my own satisfaction is whether *Arachnothera* is in its right place among the *Nectariniidae*, and whether it is not a Honey-Eater. Oates has already allowed it the rank of a subfamily.

A nest was found in December. It is fastened to some leaves and a thin twig,



I should say spun on to it, and outside covered with half-decayed dry leaves. It is rather small for the bird, and consists chiefly of dry grass, but is inside thickly lined with very soft snow-white vegetable silk. It had one egg, which is creamy white, with some pale reddish spots all over, and with a close ring of pale brownish red spots and dots near the broader end, as well as with a few deep brown hair-lines encircling the egg above the middle. It measures 20 : 14.3 mm. E. H.

13. *Ptilotis spilogaster* Grant (*Ibis*, 1896, p. 251).

Fergusson Island. ♂ ♀. "Iris hazel." Mr. Ogilvie Grant has kindly compared the two specimens with the type of the species in the British Museum and found them to be perfectly alike. E. H.

14. *Ptilotis analoga* Rehb.

Fergusson Island. Iris dark hazel or "black." Bill and feet dark grey. Nests were found in November and December. The nest hangs in the fork of a branch, is a deep cup, much narrower at the bottom, wide on top, and consists of small grassy rootlets and leaves. It is outside about 75 mm. high, the cup about 60 deep, above about 50 to 75 mm. across. The two eggs are pure white and resemble those of our nuthatch, being somewhat sparsely speckled with rufous brown and brownish red, measuring 21.5 : 16 and 22 : 16 mm. E. H.

15. *Philemon novaeguineae subtuberosus* subsp. nov.

Four perfectly adult specimens of both sexes from Fergusson Island, some taken from the nest, differ from a series of skins from different parts of New Guinea, Batanta, and Salwatti in having the hump at the base of the culmen distinctly smaller and in the pale tips to the rectrices being much less developed, and in fact hardly or not at all perceptible. The iris is "hazel."

This subspecies is certainly much more distinct than the form described as "*Tropidorhynchus aruensis*" by Dr. A. B. Meyer, *Zeitschr. ges. Ornith.* I. p. 216. This latter form is stated to differ from *Philemon novaeguineae* Müll. in its longer and higher bill with a higher hump, a more feathered forehead, and paler colour of the body. Four specimens from Wokan, Lutor, and Giaba-Lengar, all Aru Islands, do not show a sign of any of these differences, except that the bill is slightly longer than in the majority of New Guinea specimens, and that the hump in one, from Wokan, is decidedly higher than in any I was able to compare from New Guinea. The feathering of the forehead is not at all different from those from New Guinea, nor is there any difference in colour. Therefore the Aru form cannot possibly be anything more than a subspecies of *P. novaeguineae*, but the majority of ornithologists will no doubt follow Salvadori, who (*Aggiunte Orn. Pap.* II. p. 129) places *P. aruensis* as a synonym under *P. novaeguineae*. Why Dr. Meyer in his original description compared his *T. aruensis* with *P. timoriensis* rather than with *P. novaeguineae* I cannot understand, for in size, colour, and hump it stands undoubtedly nearest to *P. novaeguineae*. Nor can I understand how one can place *P. jobiensis* Meyer and *P. novaeguineae* into different genera, as Salvadori does in his *Orn. Papuasie*. I should rather agree with Dr. Gadow, who recognises *P. jobiensis* only as a subspecies of *P. novaeguineae*, for there is a small hump on the base of the bill, but the somewhat different forehead, which is not feathered, but covered with scanty stiff black hairs, justifies its specific position. In any case Dr. Meyer's view must be upheld that it is congeneric with *P. novaeguineae*, though I



fully agree with Dr. Gadow in uniting *Philemon* and *Tropidorhynchus* under the former name, as such forms as *P. jobiensis* and *P. novaeguineae subtuberosus* form distinct bridges from the humped to the unhumped members of the group.

In comparing any of these birds it must be borne in mind that the *females* have as a rule slightly smaller humps, and that they are much less developed in young birds; therefore only adult birds of the same sex should be compared if the size of the hump is discussed.

Nests of *Philemon novaeguineae subtuberosus* were found from October to December on Fergusson Island. They were large open structures, and contained two or three eggs each. The latter are very pale salmon-colour, and have many vinaceous rufous patches and a few deeper-lying purplish grey ones. They measure 32·5 : 23, 32·7 : 22·8, 33·7 : 23·5 mm. and about these measurements. Other clutches are of a deeper salmon-colour, washed nearly all over with pale vinaceous rufous patches and with a few black dots. Size about the same. E. H.

#### 16. *Myzomela forbesi* Rams.

Ramsay, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales*, IV. p. 469 (1880); Gadow, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* IX. p. 135.

The species has been described from Woodlark Island, but Mr. Meek sent a fine series of both sexes from Fergusson Island only. The wing of the *males* is 2·3 to 2·4 inches (about 60 mm.), not 2·25 inches as given by Gadow. "Iris hazel." "Bill and feet black." The *female* is greenish olive above; forehead, crown, and throat dull red; underside pale olive, very pale in the middle of the abdomen. "Iris black." Wing 52—53 mm. Altogether smaller than the *male*. E. H.

#### 17. *Dicaeum rubrocoronatum* Sharpe.

Fergusson Island. Three eggs were found on December 2nd, 1894. They are pure white, and measure 13·3 : 11, 14 : 11, 15·2 : 10·9 mm. E. H.

#### 18. *Anthreptes meeki* sp. nov.

♂ ♀. *Anthreptes minimus*, capite colloque supra, tectricibus alarum minoribus griseis, dorso, rectricum et secundariarum marginibus exterioribus, alarum tectricibus majoribus viridibus, griseo lavatis. Subtus griseo-albidus, corporis lateribus, fasciulis plumarum pectoris lateribus pallide sulfureis, alarum tectricibus inferioribus albis. Al. 50 mm., caud. 25—28, culm. 14, tars. 12 mm.

*Hab.* Ins. Fergusson dicta.

This is perhaps the most interesting of Mr. Meek's discoveries on Fergusson Island, and therefore it is appropriate that it should bear his name. Remarkable it is on account of its very simple coloration, *the MALE having no trace of metallic colours in its plumage and differing in no way from the FEMALE!* It is therefore with some hesitation that I call it an *Anthreptes*, but it belongs to no other genus known to me, and I cannot find any structural characters to separate it from that genus. Perhaps Mr. Büttikofer or Count Salvadori would separate it generically, if I understand their point of view, judging from the former gentleman's recent, and most valuable, articles on some groups of Passerine birds, and from the latter ornithologist's keys to the genera in his monograph of the *Anatidae*; but in my opinion coloration alone cannot constitute genera, and generic characters must be structural, so as to enable us to class all ages, sexes, and even varieties, such as albinos, in their proper genera. Besides



the aberrant colour of this new species, it inhabits the most eastern locality of any *Anthreptes* hitherto known.

ADULT.—Head and neck above grey, nearest to “olive-grey” (Ridgw., *Nomencl. Col.* pl. ii. fig. 14). Ear-coverts paler, small spot in front of the eye greyish white. Lesser wing-coverts grey. Back, rump, and upper tail-coverts green, slightly washed with grey. Primaries deep brown, outer webs narrowly margined with olive-grey. Secondaries and rectrices deep brown, outer webs margined with green. Throat, breast, and middle of abdomen greyish white; sides of body pale sulphur-yellow; pectoral tufts sulphur-yellow. Under wing-coverts white, washed with yellow. Iris deep brown; legs blackish; bill black; base of mandible whitish.

Measurements: see above.

Evidently not rare on Fergusson Island, from where a small but fine series was sent.

Nests were found in September and December. The nest is a characteristic sunbird's nest, being constructed of grass and other fine dry materials. The entrance, at the side, is overhung by a small porch. It is firmly attached to a branch, from which it suspends. The two eggs resemble those of other sunbirds, being of a brownish creamy ground-colour, covered all over with a dark brown, like chocolate with milk, and a few deeper brown, almost black, lines and dots. They measure 18 : 12·3 and 17·3 : 12·3 mm.

E. H.

#### 19. *Cinnyris christianae* Tristr.

Fergusson and Kiriwina Islands.

This species has been described from St. Aignan's Island by Canon Tristram in the *Ibis*, 1889, p. 555. The description suits our specimens very well, except that I cannot find that the bill is so remarkably larger than that of other allied species. The type, now in the Liverpool Museum, has most kindly been sent me by the Director, Mr. Forbes, for comparison. It agrees entirely with our specimens, except that the wing is slightly longer. It measures 66 mm. in the type, while it measures 63—65 in eight *males* from Fergusson Island before me. That, of course, cannot be considered an important difference, nor can any weight be attached to a slightly more greenish tint of the upper wing-coverts in the Fergusson *males*. The *female* and the young *male*, of which there are skins from Fergusson and Kiriwina, have the head above and nape deep grey with pale grey edges to the feathers, so that they look somewhat scaly, the rest of the upper parts dull yellowish green, throat and upper breast pale ashy grey, abdomen pale yellow, under wing-coverts white with a yellow wash. Wing 57—60; culm. 23. Culmen of *males* 23—25 mm. Iris deep brown.

Nests were found on Fergusson and Kiriwina from October to March. The nests resemble those of other sunbirds.

The eggs, two or three in number, are of a brownish white ground-colour, which is more or less covered with spots and patches of chocolate-colour or a similar brown colour. Some are entirely and equally covered with the dark colour, so that scarcely anything is visible of the ground-colour, but most of them have a more or less well-defined ring near the broader end, and the smaller end is often very pale, showing much of the ground-colour, which in some is rather whitish. The measurements are 20 : 13, 17·9 : 13, 17·8 : 12·3, 18·3 : 12·1, 17·8 : 12, and so on.

E. H.

#### 20. *Cinnyris frenata* (Müll.).

Fergusson Island.



21. (?) *Pseudogerygone conspicillata* (Gray).

Three specimens of a *Pseudogerygone* from Fergusson Island agree best, of all the species represented in the British Museum at present, with *P. conspicillata*, from which they seem hardly separable at all, though the flanks are a little more washed with rufous olive. They are above olive-brown, below whitish with an olive-brown or rufous olive wash, strongest on the breast and sides of body. Nasal plumes whitish, feathers in front of the eye dusky. Under wing-coverts white. Wing of *females* 52—53 mm., of *male* 55 mm. Rectrices with blackish subterminal spots and with rather indistinct whitish spots on the tips of the inner webs of the outer rectrices. Feathering of the eyelid white above and below. "Iris red." These birds also resemble very much a specimen of *P. brunneipectus* in the British Museum, but the colour is not exactly the same. In the Tring Museum is also a skin shot near Cedar Bay in North Queensland by Mr. Meek on January 16th, 1894. It is marked *male*. Except a slightly paler general colour, which may be due to its being in a somewhat worn plumage, and more distinct whitish spots on the inner webs of the outer four pairs of rectrices, I cannot see any differences. If the sex is right the wing, measuring only 51 mm., would also be shorter. This should be *P. magnirostris* Gould, but it has also white feathers round the eye, and Sharpe's supposition that they are absent in *P. magnirostris* (see his "Key") seems to be wrong.

I repeat that my specimens agree best with *P. conspicillata*, but I am somewhat doubtful whether *P. conspicillata*, *brunneipectus*, and *magnirostris* are specifically separable.

Nests were found in January. They are hanging from a twig, like sunbirds' nests, and have a lateral entrance nearer the top. The eggs, three in number, are without gloss, reddish white with small brownish red spots, many of them of very minute size, but one is pure white with only a few red spots. The reddish ones measure 16·7 : 13, 17·3 : 12·6, the white one 17·4 : 12·9 mm.

Nests of the bird from Cedar Bay are much like the one from Fergusson Island, but more pointed at the bottom, the eggs more reddish and more plentifully marked with rufous little spots. They measure from 17 : 12 to 18 : 12·3 and 17·5 : 12·5 mm.

E. H.

22. *Rhipidura setosa* (Quoy & Gaim.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris black." A nest found on December 29th is an unmistakable *Rhipidura* nest, viz. a well-built pad, resting on the top of a branch, quite round, measuring 60 mm. across. The two eggs are also at once recognised as *Rhipidura* eggs by any one who knows eggs. They are brownish white with a broad ring of dark brown, paler brown, and deeper-lying grey spots and patches. They measure 19·5 : 14·3 and 19 : 14·3 mm.

E. H.

23. *Monarcha melanopsis* (Vieill.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris black ; bill bluish grey ; legs and feet bluish grey."

24. *Monarcha inornatus* (Garn.).

Trobriand Islands. ♀. "Iris black."



25. *Monarcha guttula* (Garn.).

Fergusson Island. Iris dark hazel. The sexes alike. The young bird agrees with Salvadori's description (*Orn. Papuas*. II. p. 22), but the breast is washed with pale cinnamon. The wing-coverts are without any white spots, which only appear as the birds get older. Nests were found in December. They are firmly fixed in a corner formed of three or four twigs, and are deep cups, built entirely of green moss, but lined inside with black rootlets and human hair. Outside height about 100 mm.; width across on top 70—80. The two eggs are of a dark cream-colour, thickly spotted and speckled with pale and dark rufous and with some deeper-lying greyish spots. They measure 22·5 : 16·1 and 22 : 15·9 mm.

E. H.

26. *Monarcha chalybeocephalus* (Garn.).

Fergusson, Trobriand, and Woodlark Islands. "Iris black; feet brownish black; beak slate-colour." One *female* from the Trobriands has the chin metallic greenish black, while another from the same place has no sign of a dark chin.

Nests were found on Fergusson Island from October to December. They are either built of moss lined inside with dark rootlets, much like that of *M. guttula*, and outside ornamented with white pieces of a very tough and close cobweb, or without moss, of rootlets, twigs, etc., ornamented outside with lichens, greenish or grey bark, cobwebs, etc. They are mostly fixed firmly in a fork of a branch, or riding on some twigs.

The eggs have no similarity whatever with those of *M. guttula*, being greenish white and with a loose ring of brown and grey spots near the thicker end, altogether much resembling small eggs of the corresponding variety of *Lanius collurio*. The clutches consist of three eggs each. They measure 21·1 : 15, 21·5 : 16, 21 : 15·3, 21 : 15·6, 21·9 : 15·3 mm.

E. H.

27. *Monarcha aruensis* Salvad.

Fergusson. These birds agree entirely with skins from Nicura and Mailu in British New Guinea. They are easily distinguishable from *M. melanonota* from Dutch New Guinea by their smaller bill, and are also well distinguishable from *M. chrysomelas* of New Ireland, while *M. kordensis* Meyer is quite a different bird.

E. H.

28. *Edoliosoma mülleri* Salvad.

Two *males* and a *female* from Fergusson Island. The iris in both sexes "hazel."

The *male* of this species hardly differs from that of *E. tenuirostre* except in the greater massiveness of the bill. The *female* differs more, according to Salvadori.

E. H.

29. *Lalage karu* (Less.).

Fergusson Island. Iris in both sexes "hazel."

30. *Pitta finschi* Rams. (?).

A third skin from Fergusson Island agrees perfectly with the two described Nov Zool. II. p. 61. I have nothing to add about the birds to what I said there.

Two eggs were found on October 16th, 1894.



They are creamy white, heavily blotched and spotted with purplish brown and bluish grey.

Measurements: 31.9 : 24.5 mm.

E. H.

31. *Collocalia fuciphaga* (Thunb.).

Fergusson and Kiriwina, Trobriands. Wings 116—117 mm.

E. H.

32. *Collocalia esculenta* (L.).

Kiriwina and Woodlark. Wings in specimens from the former island 95—100 mm., in those from the latter 101—103 mm.

E. H.

33. *Podargus intermedius* Hartert.

In the December meeting of the Brit. Orn. Club I described this interesting new form, of which Mr. Meek sent a small series from Fergusson and Kiriwina, Trobriand group. These birds are represented in grey and rufous phases, the latter being sexed as *females*, the former as *males*. The iris is described on the various labels as "brick-red," dull red, and hazel. Nests with one egg each were found in November and December on Fergusson Island, and a young bird was found there in January. The nests are curiously tiny structures, resting on the branches. They are of a somewhat triangular form, measuring only about 4 to 5½ inches across. They are composed of only a few pieces of vines, twigs, and grass, loosely put together, and one can easily read through them if held over a book. They are much less of a nest than that of a turtle-dove. The eggs are dead white, equally rounded on both ends, rather thin and fragile, and measure 39.4 : 27.6 and 40.3 : 28.6 mm. When held against the light they shine through greenish yellow. Both sexes seem to breed, as both were shot from the nests. The nestling was evidently not hatched long before it was found, but the rectrices, wing-feathers, and scapulars, as well as some feathers of the spinal and pectoral tracts, begin already to show. The little thing is *sparsely* covered with whitish downy feathers, the back, sides of body, and abdomen being very thinly covered. The nostrils stand out rather tubular. The stomach is full of insect-remains.

E. H.

34. *Eurystomus australis* Sw. and 35. *E. crassirostris* Sel.

Both these rollers were shot on Fergusson Island. The iris of both species is described as "hazel."

36. *Scythrops novaehollandiae* Lath.

Both sexes, Kiriwina, Trobriand Islands. "Iris red." One of the two sent is marked ♂, the other ♀. In the latter the bill is more than 1 cm. longer than in the one marked ♂, and the wing is 3 cm. longer as well!

E. H.

37. *Cacomantis insperatus* (Gould).

Fergusson Island. "Iris hazel."

38. *Centropus nigricans* Salvad.

Fergusson Island. "Iris red."



39. *Ceyx solitaria* (Temm.).

♂. Fergusson Island. "Iris black."

40. *Alcedo ispidoides* Less.

♀. Fergusson Island.

41. *Alcyone lessoni* Cass.

Fergusson Island. "Iris black."

Nests were found in September and October. The eggs, of the usual form and colour of kingfishers' eggs, measure 23 : 19·3, 22·3 : 19·6 mm., and thereabouts.

E. H.

42. *Halcyon sanctus* (Vig. & Horsf.).

Fergusson, Kiriwina in the Trobriand group, and Woodlark Islands. "Iris hazel."

43. *Halcyon saurophagus* (Gould).

Yanarba Island, Egum group. "Iris black."

44. *Syma torotoro* Less.

♂ ♀. Fergusson Island. "Iris hazel." The under parts of the four specimens before me are rather darker cinnamon-rufous than usual. As Sharpe (*Cat. B. XVII.* p. 197) justly says, the throat and abdomen are paler in *S. torotoro*; in those from Fergusson Island, however, I find the throat but very little paler, and the abdomen not at all so. Among seventeen skins before me from New Guinea and Waigiou I find the abdomen only as dark in *one single* specimen. I suspect, therefore, that the Fergusson Island birds are subspecifically different, but I cannot find any other differences.

E. H.

45. *Halcyon macleayi* Jard. & Selby.A *female*, Kiriwina, Trobriands. "Iris dark hazel."46. *Halcyon sordidus colonus* subsp. nov.

*Halcyon* formae *H. sordidus typicus* dictae affinis, sed multo minor. Culm. 46 (nec 60) mm., al. 89—93 (nec 112) mm.

*Hab.* "Egum group" (subspeciei typus), "Louisiade Islands."

Two skins, a *male* and a *female*, from Egum Island differ widely from *H. sordidus* from Northern Australia and the Aru Islands, in being decidedly smaller and apparently also darker, especially on the head, though this may be due to the freshness of the skins. The loreal spot is not white, but pale buff; the concealed spot on the nape very distinct and pale buff; the collar on the hind-neck rather broad; above and behind the eye an indication of an eyebrow. Tail 70 mm.

This very distinct form might stand as a species; but the differences being of a nature suggesting the occurrence of local variation in a similar direction, and, except the size, not being striking, it is perhaps safer to at once regard them as of subspecific importance only. The skin "n" in the British Museum (cf. Sharpe, *Cat. B. XVII.* p. 279) belongs also to this form, which will doubtless be found on many more islands. The iris is given by Mr. Meek as "hazel."



Cabanis & Heine, *Mus. Hein.* II. p. 159, named the Aru birds *Sauropatis grayi* (descr. nulla!); but from glancing at them in the British Museum I could not see any differences from Australian specimens. E. H.

47. *Lorius hypoenochrous* G. R. Gray.

Fergusson, Trobriands, and Woodlark. "Iris red." Sexes quite alike.

48. *Cyclopsittacus virago* Hartert.

Fergusson Island only. See Nov. Zool. II. p. 61.

49. *Loriculus aurantiifrons meeki* Hartert.

Fergusson Island only. See Nov. Zool. II. p. 62.

50. (?) *Nasiterna pusio* Sel.

Fergusson Island. Two *males* and some nestlings from Fergusson Island are rather small, have a bluish tinge on the breast, hardly any yellow on the under parts, and the forehead and sides of the head not so orange, but rather browner. They differ, however, from each other a little, and I am therefore in doubt whether they belong to a distinct local form, or whether they are merely immature specimens. I am not at all sure that the specimens from the Duke of York group and from "S.E. New Guinea" are fully the same. The type has been described from the "Solomon Islands," which was evidently wrong. E. H.

51. *Geoffroyus aruensis* (Gray).

Evidently not rare in Fergusson Island. Iris in both sexes very pale yellow, sometimes nearly white; feet and legs dark grey. E. H.

52. *Eclectus pectoralis* (P. L. S. Müll).

Evidently common on Fergusson and Kiriwina, Trobriands. The (green) *males* have the iris mostly marked "red," some "yellow." The (red) *females* also have these two colours marked on the labels as those of their irides. E. H.

53. *Cacatua triton trobriandi* (?).

A *female* from Fergusson Island has the wing only 263 mm. (= 10.4 in.), which is decidedly less than the length of the wing of *C. triton*. Salvadori (*Cat. B.* XX. p. 119) says: "The specimens from the Western Papuan Islands, and especially from the Aru Islands, are generally smaller than those from the mainland, and have even been separated specifically as *C. macrolopha* Rosenb.; but I do not think that we are justified in accepting this view, especially when we consider the great range of individual variation." Dr. Finsch, in his interesting book *Samoafahrten*, p. 208, says that the natives in the Trobriand Islands brought to him "lebende Exemplare einer eigenen kleinen Kakaduart mit gelber Haube, *Cacatua trobriandi* Finsch." This name he considered afterwards (Salvadori, *l.c.*) as a synonym of *C. triton*.

No description of "*Cacatua trobriandi* Finsch" has ever appeared. Most likely the Fergusson Island cockatoo belongs to the same form as that from Trobriand. It is still smaller than those from the Western Papuan Islands, Salwatti, Mysol, etc., the



wing measuring only 267 mm., while Mysol specimens have the wing 280 mm. long, and the wings of those from Dutch New Guinea in Mr. Rothschild's Museum measure 320 to 330 mm. The bills differ in proportion. It seems to me, and I have no doubt that a large series with exact localities stated will prove beyond doubt, that the birds from the Western Papuan Islands form a well-marked subspecies, *C. triton macrolopha* Rosenb., and that the birds from Fergusson, Normanby, and Trobriand Islands are separable as another subspecies, to which the name *trobriandi* might be attached.

E. H.

#### 54. *Ninox goldiei* Gurney.

Fergusson. "Iris and feet yellow."

*N. goldiei* has been described from "S.E. New Guinea." Unfortunately many of Goldie's skins had no exact locality, though most of them were collected by Hunstein. The locality "S.E. New Guinea" may have been erroneous, as in the case of *Phonygama hunsteini* (vide supra). Mr. Meek has now sent a number of skins of this owl from Fergusson. Two of them I sent to Mr. J. H. Gurney, who kindly compared them with the three in the Norwich Museum, and who wrote: "I compared your two skins with the three at our Museum, with which they are clearly identical, but your pair are on the whole a trifle smaller than ours, and they certainly are a shade darker on the back." After measuring all Meek's specimens it is evident that they are *not* smaller than the types, one having the wings even longer than the types. The wings vary from 208 to 223 mm., the *males* being smaller. The shade of colour on the back differs in darkness. Mr. Sharpe has suggested that *N. terricolor* Rams. is identical with *N. goldiei*, but there is hardly a character in Ramsay's description (*Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* IV. p. 466) that is found in *N. goldiei*, which is also very much larger. Some of our birds have white spots on the wing-coverts, others not. The breast is more or less mixed with white, and of a more or less deep rufous colour.

E. H.

#### 55. *Astur etorques* (Salvad.).

Mr. Meek has most diligently collected a series of extremely interesting hawks on the several islands, and we must be very thankful for that, but the study of these specimens has proved to be very difficult, and took a long time. There are before me three *females* and one *male*, all adult, from Kiriwina, Trobriand Islands, which are all, undoubtedly, the same species; further one, probably adult, *male* and a young *female* in first plumage from Fergusson Island, and one not quite adult *female* from Woodlark Island. These latter I believe to belong to the same form, and I am of opinion that all these birds are *Astur etorques* (Salvad.). (See *Orn. Papuas*. I. p. 49, Addenda III. p. 508, etc.)

All the specimens from the Trobriands are evidently adult birds, two shot from their nests. All, except one, show indications of, or even well perceptible, though faint, cross-barrings on the abdomen, and a greyish wash on the chest.

The *females* have the wings 268, 270, and 251 mm., the latter evidently younger, being more barred and of a darker rufous colour below. All these *females* have distinctly barred under wing-coverts, one of them having the latter washed with a bluish grey, a kind of "bloom" of the latter colour being perceptible everywhere below. The *male* has only very faint indications of bars below, and hardly any on the under wing-coverts. Its wing measures 220 mm. The ground-colour of the under parts of all these is vinous rufous in different shades, some being darker, some paler



and more vinous. The throat in all is rather greyish vinous. The *male* from Fergusson differs from all these in being much paler below, perceptibly barred. Its wings are 215 mm. The young *female* from Fergusson is totally different. It is brown above, whitish below, cross-barred with brown, but longitudinally marked on throat and chest. Wing 260 mm. The *female* from Woodlark resembles those from Trobriand, but the ground-colour below is of a deeper rufous, the bars more distinct, the throat also with cross-markings. Wing 268 mm. The iris of all these specimens is described as yellow. The clutch is three eggs. They are of the form and structure of eggs of other species of *Astur* and *Circus*. They are of a bluish white, like goshawks' eggs, and unspotted. If held against the light they shine through dark bluish green. They measure 45.5 : 35.5, 45.5 : 35, 44 : 33.6, 45 : 35.5, 33 : 35 mm.

Specimens of *A. etorques* from New Guinea agree with the specimens above described.

Gurney separated a form of this bird from New Britain and New Ireland as *Urospizias dampieri* (cf. *Ibis*, 1882, pp. 126, 453). I have before me in the Tring Museum an unsexed bird, evidently a *male*, from New Ireland, and a young bird, perhaps a *female*. The *male* has the wing 201 mm. In colour it agrees with our specimens of *A. etorques*, except that the under wing-coverts are very light-coloured, and the inner wing-lining is not greyish, but of a pale whitish cinnamon. This pale cinnamon inner wing-lining is also obvious in the young bird. From these two specimens I should say that the New Ireland form, which would be *A. dampieri*, is very closely allied to *A. etorques*, but not the same. Perhaps it may be subspecifically distinct. (See A. B. Meyer, *Abh. und Ber. Mus. Dresden*, 1890-91, No. 4, p. 2; 1892-93, No. 3, p. 6.)

*Astur griseigularis* Gray from the Moluccas is very much like *A. etorques*, but the throat is pure cinereous grey, sharply separated from the vinous breast, etc., and there is a broad, though not sharply limited, band of vinous across the hind-neck.

I am not convinced as to the value of the genus *Urospizias*, but I hope that before long we shall be enlightened about the genera of the hawks—a difficult and, I am afraid, not very satisfactory chapter.

E. H.

#### 56. *Astur poliocephalus* (Gray).

Fergusson Island. "Iris hazel."

#### 57. *Baza reinwardti* (Müll. & Schleg.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris yellow."

#### 58. *Pandion haliaetus leucocephalus* Gould.

♂ ♀ shot from nest on Egum, July 25th. These two birds, shot from the nest, differ in the colour of the head, the ♀ having the top of the head quite white, the ♂ having a number of broad longitudinal deep brown spots, especially on the forehead. The wing of the ♂ is 41 cm., that of the ♀ 43.5. (See *antea*, p. 178.) The nest contained two eggs. They are similar to the less-spotted varieties of the European osprey, but one has a few hair-lines, which are extremely seldom seen in European osprey eggs. They are not large, measuring 60 : 43 and 58 : 43 mm.

E. H.



59. **Haliastur indus girrenera** (Vieill.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris hazel." Typical *girrenera*, with pure white head.  
E. H.

60. **Milvus migrans affinis** (Gould).

Fergusson Island.

61. **Falco ernesti** Sharpe.

A large and very dark *female* was shot in Woodlark Island on August 3rd, 1895.  
"Iris dark hazel." (See *antea*, p. 18.)  
E. H.

62. **Carpophaga vanwycki** Cass.

Egum Islands. "Iris red." Wing 218—233 mm.  
E. H.

63. **Carpophaga salvadorii** Tristr.

Fergusson Island. (See Nov. Zool. II. p. 63.)  
E. H.

64. **Carpophaga zoeae** (Less.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris white; feet and legs red." The specimens from Fergusson are quite like specimens from Dutch New Guinea, Jobi, German New Guinea, and several places in British New Guinea. The metallic green line between the vinous hind-neck and the deep chestnut back is more or less distinct. Dr. A. B. Meyer (*Abh. und Ber. Mus. Dresden*, 1891, No. 2, p. 13) has separated a form from Kaiser-Wilhelmsland as *C. zoeae orientalis*, but I cannot see any differences between our birds from Kaiser-Wilhelmsland and those from the other parts mentioned above. The metallic green on the back is more or less developed in all; the chin is not more white in any of my Kaiser-Wilhelmsland specimens; some metallic greenish gloss is often visible on the breast-band, and not confined to skins from German New Guinea. Therefore the validity of Dr. Meyer's subspecies seems very improbable to me.  
E. H.

65. **Reinwardtoenas reinwardti griseotincta** Hartert.

♂. Fergusson Island. "Iris hazel." In coloration similar to skins from German and British New Guinea. Wing not measurable, because moulting.  
E. H.

66. **Caloenas nicobarica** (Linn.).

The Nicobar pigeon was found in the Trobriand and Egum Islands. "Iris bluish white."

67. **Ptilopus zonurus** Salvad.

Fergusson Island. "Iris light red." The sexes do not differ.

68. **Ptilopus strophium** Gould.

One ♂ from Egum, agreeing with specimens from S.E. New Guinea, but with the bill about 3 mm. longer. "Iris red." Salvadori, *Cat. B.* XXI. p. 135, gives the iris as "yellow" on the authority of "Ingham."  
E. H.



69. *Ptilopus superbus* (Temm.).

Kiriwina, Trobriands. "Iris yellow."

70. *Ptilopus lewisi vicinus* Hartert.

See Nov. Zool. II. pp. 62, 63, where I described this subspecies from Fergusson Island. In a later collection we received it also from Kiriwina, Trobriands.

E. H.

71. *Macropygia doreya cinereiceps* Tristr.

1 ♂ and 2 ♀ from Fergusson Island are termed as above with some hesitation. The *females* seem not to differ from the *females* of the allied forms, but the *male* is less distinctly barred on the breast than two *males* of *M. doreya* from Hatam, Arfak, and there is a little more grey on the crown and nape; but we have a *male*, evidently quite adult, from Ansus, May 6th, 1875, which has on its label, in Salvadori's handwriting, "*b. Macropygia doreya* var. *griseinucha* Salvad. *Typus. Bruijn.*" This bird does not differ from our Fergusson *male* except in a slightly more purplish hind-neck, a character which is changeable individually, and in having the breast slightly more distinctly barred, but nobody would think of describing this slight difference if they came from the same locality. This Ansus specimen is evidently specimen x. of Salvadori's list in *Orn. Papuasie* III. p. 155, where it is said that it belongs to *M. doreya*, not to *M. griseinucha*, which is said to be confined to Miosnom, though this "typus" is from Ansus! If this Ansus bird is true *M. doreya*, then my Trobriand bird is certainly scarcely even a subspecies of it. I strongly suspect that *M. cinereiceps*, *M. griseinucha*, and probably also *M. goldiei* will have to be classified as subspecies under *M. doreya*, if that.

E. H.

72. *Chalcophaps stephani* Rehb.

Fergusson Island. See Nov. Zool. II. p. 64.

73. *Chalcophaps chrysochlora* Gould.

Fergusson and Kiriwina, Trobriands. "Iris hazel." March 10th and April 18th, nests with two eggs each. In one clutch one egg is much more yellowish and measures 28.5 : 20.5 mm., while the other, whiter one, measures 29.3 : 21.6.

E. H.

74. *Porphyrio melanopterus* Bp.

Kiriwina, Trobriands, and Woodlark Island. "Iris red, hazel in young birds."

Sharpe, *Cat. B.* XXIII. p. 203, calls this species *Porph. smaragdinus* Temm., but this is, in my opinion, wrong. Temm., *Pl. Col.* 421, figures a bird with the thighs of a lighter blue than the abdomen, while in the species under discussion they are of a deeper colour. Temminck's bird has a deep bluish green back, and he describes it as having "le dos, les ailes et la queue, d'un bleu noirâtre à légère nuance verdâtre," but our bird has a black back. Moreover Temminck states that his species has been diagnosed by Horsfield under the name of *P. indicus*, and that it inhabits the lakes of the islands of Java and Banda. Now our bird does not live in Java, nor is it, as far as I can make out, recorded with certainty from Banda. It is said by Sharpe to live "throughout the Moluccas," and though this is probable, there are many of those islands where it has not yet been found. Therefore the name



*P. smaragdinus* cannot be used for our bird. The next oldest name in Sharpe's synonymy is *P. vitiensis* Peale. This applies to the Fiji form, and as that seems to differ, at least subspecifically, from our birds, it cannot be strictly applied to them, so that *P. melanopterus* Bp.,\* or more likely *P. vitiensis melanopterus*, will in future be the proper nomenclature of this form. W. R.

75. *Esacus magnirostris* Geoff.

Woodlark Island.

76. *Squatarola helvetica* (L.).

Fergusson Island.

77. *Totanus hypoleucus* (L.).

Fergusson and Trobriands.

78. *Demiegretta sacra* (Gm.).

Kiriwina, Trobriand Islands, Woodlark Island. "Iris pale yellow."

79. *Tadorna radjah* (Garn.).

Fergusson Island. "Iris hazel."

80. *Megapodius macgillivrayi* Gray.

Kiriwina, Trobriand Islands, where these birds were common. "The iris is hazel." The pullus is brown below; throat and abdomen lighter, and tinged with rusty rufous. Dark brown above; interscapular region tinged with slaty olive, rump with deep rufous; secondaries, wing-coverts, and scapulars barred with light rusty brown.

The eggs vary somewhat in colour, some being more rufous, some paler, some more brownish, but pure white when the coloured upper surface is rubbed off or comes off through decay. Some regular ones and two smaller varieties measure 84 : 56, 93 : 55, 87.5 : 55, 95 : 55, 83 : 54.5, 89.6 : 51 mm. E. H.

81. *Micranous leucocapillus* (Gould).

Egum and Woodlark Islands.

82. *Sterna bergii* Licht.

Woodlark Island. Wing 350 mm.

83. *Sterna dougalli* Mont.

♂ ad. Woodlark Island, August 3rd. Wing 216 mm.

It may be useful for persons working with Mr. Saunders' key to the species of the genus *Sterna* (*Cat. B. XXV. p. 41*) to state that there must be a mistake in the line "*a'*. Size larger; wing never less than 9.5 in." In the description of *Sterna dougalli*, p. 73, the wing is given 9.25, though this species falls under *a'* in the key. In fact the wing of *Sterna dougalli* is not merely 9.25, as given (evidently from one skin) in the description, but about 8.3 to 9.5 in. It is a custom very convenient to the writer, and very much in use among the best ornithologists, to describe and measure one typical specimen; but this practice is most inconvenient for the student using their books. E. H.

We append lists of the species sent from each island. Forms described as new

\* Temm. is not the author.



from Mr. Meek's collection are marked with an asterisk. Some in brackets and without numbers have been first discovered on the islands where they are now enumerated, but not sent from there by Mr. Meek.

FERGUSSON.	TROBRIANDS.	WOODLARK.	EGUM.
1. <i>Corvus orru</i> .	1. <i>Manucodia comrii</i> .	( <i>Myzomela forbesi</i> .)	1. <i>Halcyon sauro-</i> <i>phagus</i> .
2. <i>Gymnocorax senex</i> .	2. <i>Calornis metallica</i> .	1. <i>M. chalybeocephalus</i> .	2. <i>H. sordidus colo-</i> <i>nus</i> (*).
3. <i>Manucodia comrii</i> .	3. <i>Cracticus cassicus</i> .	2. <i>Collocalia escu-</i> <i>lenta</i> .	3. <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> <i>leucocephalus</i> .
4. <i>Phonygama hunsteini</i> .	4. <i>Pachyc. fortis trobri-</i> <i>andi</i> (*).	3. <i>Lorius hypoenochrous</i> .	4. <i>Carpophaga van-</i> <i>wycki</i> .
5. <i>Paradisea decora</i> .	5. <i>Cinnyris christiana</i> .	4. <i>Astur etorques</i> .	5. <i>Caloenas nico-</i> <i>barica</i> .
6. <i>Calornis metallica</i> .	6. <i>Monarcha inornatus</i> .	5. <i>Falco ernesti</i> .	6. <i>Ptilopus stro-</i> <i>phium</i> .
7. <i>Cracticus cassicus</i> .	7. <i>M. chalybeocephalus</i> .	6. <i>Porphyrio melan-</i> <i>opterus</i> .	7. <i>Micranous leuco-</i> <i>capillus</i> .
8. <i>Pachycephala dubia</i> .	8. <i>Collocalia fuciphaga</i> .	7. <i>Esacus magniro-</i> <i>stris</i> .	
9. <i>P. fortis</i> .	9. <i>C. esculenta</i> .	8. <i>Demiegretta sacra</i> .	
10. <i>Chibia carbonaria</i> .	10. <i>Podargus interme-</i> <i>dus</i> .	9. <i>Micranous leucoca-</i> <i>pillus</i> .	
11. <i>Melilestes fergussoni</i> (*).	11. <i>Scythrops novaeholl.</i>	10. <i>Sterna bergii</i> .	
12. <i>Ptilotis spilogaster</i> .	12. <i>Halcyon sanctus</i> .	11. <i>St. dougalli</i> .	
13. <i>P. analoga</i> .	13. <i>H. macleayi</i> .		
14. <i>Philemon novaeguineae</i> <i>subtuberosus</i> (*).	14. <i>Lorius hypoenochrous</i> .		
15. <i>Myzomela forbesi</i> .	15. <i>Eclectus pectoralis</i> .		
16. <i>Dicaeum rubrocoronatum</i> .	( <i>Cacatua triton tro-</i> <i>briandi</i> .)		
17. <i>Anthreptes meeki</i> (*).	16. <i>Astur etorques</i> .		
18. <i>Cinnyris christiana</i> .	17. <i>Caloenas nicobarica</i> .		
19. <i>C. frenata</i> .	18. <i>Ptilopus superbus</i> .		
20. <i>Pseudogerygone conspicill.</i>	19. <i>P. lewisi vicinus</i> .		
21. <i>Rhipidura setosa</i> .	20. <i>Chalcophaps chryso-</i> <i>chlora</i> .		
22. <i>Monarcha melanopsis</i> .	21. <i>Porphyrio melanop-</i> <i>terus</i> .		
23. <i>M. guttula</i> .	22. <i>Totanus hypoleucus</i> .		
24. <i>M. chalybeocephalus</i> .	23. <i>Demiegretta sacra</i> .		
25. <i>M. aruensis</i> .	24. <i>Megapodius macgilli-</i> <i>vrayi</i> .		
26. <i>Edoliosoma mülleri</i> .			
27. <i>Lalage karu</i> .			
28. <i>Pitta finschi</i> (?)			
29. <i>Collocalia fuciphaga</i> .			
30. <i>Podargus intermedius</i> (*).			
31. <i>Eurystomus australis</i> .			
32. <i>E. crassirostris</i> .			
33. <i>Cacomantis insperatus</i> .			
34. <i>Centropus nigricans</i> .			
35. <i>Ceyx solitaria</i> .			
36. <i>Alcedo ispidoides</i> .			
37. <i>Alcyone lessoni</i> .			
38. <i>Halcyon sanctus</i> .			
39. <i>Syma torotoro</i> .			
40. <i>Lorius hypoenochrous</i> .			
41. <i>Cyclopsittacus virago</i> (*).			
42. <i>Loriculus aurantiifrons</i> <i>meeki</i> (*).			
43. <i>Nasiterna pusio</i> (?)			
44. <i>Geoffroyus aruensis</i> .			
45. <i>Eclectus pectoralis</i> .			
46. <i>Cacatua triton trobri-</i> <i>andi</i> (?)			
47. <i>Ninox goldiei</i> .			
48. <i>Astur etorques</i> .			
49. <i>A. poliocephalus</i> .			
50. <i>Baza reinwardti</i> .			
51. <i>Haliastur indus girrenera</i> .			
52. <i>Milvus migrans affinis</i> .			
53. <i>Carpophaga salvadorii</i> .			
54. <i>C. zoeae</i> .			
55. <i>Reinwardtoenas reinwardti</i> <i>griseotincta</i> .			
56. <i>Ptilopus zonurus</i> .			
57. <i>P. lewisi vicinus</i> (*).			
58. <i>Macropygia doreya cine-</i> <i>reiceps</i> .			
59. <i>Chalcophaps stephani</i> .			
60. <i>Ch. chrysochlora</i> .			
61. <i>Squatarola helvetica</i> .			
62. <i>Totanus hypoleucus</i> .			
63. <i>Tadorna radjah</i> .			



## V.

ON SOME SPECIES IN A SMALL COLLECTION MADE ON THE OWEN STANLEY MOUNTAINS IN THE KAIARI AND ORIORI DISTRICTS BETWEEN MOUNTS ALEXANDER AND NISBET IN JANUARY 1896.

1. *Manucodia orientalis* Salvad.

I have received several *Manucodia* from S.E. New Guinea, which belong undoubtedly to *M. orientalis*. This form has recently (*Ann. Mus. Civ.* XXXVI. p. 103, 1896) been separated from *M. chalybeata*; but Dr. A. B. Meyer had already, on two occasions, noticed some differences between North-Western and South-Eastern *M. chalybeata*.

I am sorry to say I have no material of the true *M. chalybeata* worth speaking of, but have no doubt that *M. orientalis* is merely a subspecies of it. W. R.

2. *Astrarchia stephaniae* Finsch.

"Eye dark brown; bill deep brown; feet dark grey." Some shot 6000 feet high. "Live on fruits and insects." W. R.

3. *Epimachus meyeri* Finsch.

6500 and 6000 feet high. "Iris bright blue in both sexes; bill black; feet very dark grey." Native name "Dadai." In moult in January. W. R.

4. *Drepanornis albertisii cervinicauda* Scl.

In moult.

5. *Parotia lawesi* Rams.

Both sexes, some in moult. "Eye yellow, blue-black ball; feet and beak black." W. R.

6. *Phonygama purpureoviolacea* Meyer.

Partly moulting in January. The iris is described as "pink," and on another label as "dark yellow." W. R.

7. *Loria loriae* Salvad.

A magnificent *male* was procured on the "Sakeytanumu range, Kaiari district," 6900 feet high, on January 1st, 1896. The native name is given as "Kunukupaiva," the iris as brown, feet as dark green, bill as black. "Lives on fruit." This *male* agrees very well with De Vis' description, but less with the figure in the *Ibis*, which does not show the brilliant colours.

There is no doubt, I think now, that *L. loriae* and *Cnemophilus mariae* are identical. As Salvadori's name was published first, his name must stand. I also agree with him that Sclater's note in the *Ibis*, saying that the *females* of some allied species were very similar, was not justified, since, on the contrary, in several instances, we find the *females* to differ more obviously than the *males*.

As mentioned before (see *antea*, p. 13), I have a skin of this bird which came with other trade-skins, and, to judge from the preparation, must have come from some part of North-Western New Guinea. It has the wing slightly more greenish than the type (which Mr. Hartert examined when it was in England for being drawn for the *Ibis*), but it does not differ at all from the bird now received from the mountains of S.E. New Guinea. W. R.



8. *Amblyornis subalaris* Sharpe.

In moult. "Eye brown, black ball."

9. *Pomareopsis bruijni* (Salvad.).

We have now also received *females* of this rare bird, while formerly we had only *males*.

*Anteà*, p. 14, I omitted to give my reasons for adopting the generic name *Pomareopsis*. It was done because I was not convinced that this bird is a true *Grallina*. The tarsus, which is very strongly scutellated in the Australian *Grallina*, is covered by one lamina, only showing some more or less indistinct divisions at the lower end. The wing is distinctly more pointed in *Grallina*. The feathering on the rump is fuller and richer in *Pomareopsis*. The sexes differ remarkably in the colour of the under parts.

E. H.

10. *Peltops blainvillei* (Less. & Garn.).

A pair from Oriori. Mr. de Vis, in a "Report on Ornithological Collections" written in June 1894 (date of *publication* not exactly known to me), "proposes" to separate some birds he received from British New Guinea as *P. minor*. Salvadori, in an article in the *Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova*, Vol. XVI., of which he most kindly sent separate copies to his friends, says that he thinks specimens from S.E. New Guinea cannot be separated. The question is, whether De Vis' specimens belong to the same form as those of Salvadori? In reading De Vis' remarks it seems to me that he had immature birds, which he tried to separate from old ones, but that he did not compare birds from S.E. New Guinea with those from other parts of New Guinea. A curious fact is that De Vis says his birds are smaller than usual, while Salvadori's were larger! In fact our birds (we have several more from S.E. New Guinea) are also averaging a little *larger* than those from Dutch New Guinea, but some of the latter are just as large. De Vis' measurement of the wings is 92 mm., while our above-named old S.E. New Guinea specimens have the wing in the *male* 112, in the *female* 107 mm. The iris Anthony describes as "rose-colour"; bill and feet black. De Vis speaks of the "crimson of the back" being "more or less mixed with black-centred, white-edged feathers"; but the back in *P. blainvillei* is never crimson, but black, the rump and upper tail-coverts only being red above. Probably De Vis' expression was incorrect, for if his birds really had crimson *backs* he would have emphasised that fact, I should say.

E. H.

11. *Microeca flavovirescens* Gray.

Oriori. In no way distinguishable from one collected by Guillemard in Jobi Island.

E. H.

12. *Poecilodryas albifacies* Sharpe.

Oriori. ♀. "Iris dark grey; feet bright yellow." De Vis' *Monachella viridis* is undoubtedly this species.

E. H.

13. *Monarcha periophthalmicus* Sharpe.

Oriori. The young bird, as already mentioned by Meyer, *Zeitschr. f. ges. Orn.* III. p. 15, has the occiput and nape longitudinally spotted with black.

E. H.



14. *Arses henkei* A. B. Meyer.

Both sexes from Mount Victoria, Sogere, and Oriori. These birds are distinct enough from *A. teleoscopthalmus*, but I have none from Aru to compare, with which Sharpe and Salvadori formerly united the S.E. New Guinea bird that Meyer named *A. henkei*. (*Zeitschr. f. ges. Orn.* III. p. 16, pl. iii.) E. H.

15. *Ptilotis polygramma* (Gray).

Oriori district. Dr. A. B. Meyer, *Zeitschr. f. ges. Orn.* III. p. 24, speaks of some apparent differences of South-Eastern specimens from such of North-Western New Guinea. Salvadori declares he cannot find differences. I have no material for comparison at present. E. H.

16. *Ptilotis visi* Hartert.

Two from Oriori, confirming the notes of myself (*anteà*, p. 15) and of Mr. Grant in the *Ibis*, 1896, p. 251. E. H.

17. *Lorius erythrothorax* Salvad.

One skin only, shot on January 16th in the Oriori district. It is marked ♀, and I believe it to be immature. The hind-neck is more green than blue, the feathers being green with deep blue edges; the feathers of the interscapulum are green with broad dark blood-red borders. A purplish blue band across the crop-region (often indicated in *L. erythrothorax*); the abdomen mixed purplish blue and green, the basal parts of the feathers being green. The under wing-coverts red, mixed with green and with a little blue. The tail, seen from above, is *green at base*, then red, the tip purplish blue; between the purplish blue tip and the red band is a green area, often confined to the inner webs. In Professor Mivart's wonderfully illustrated *Monograph of the Lories*, p. 52, the tail is described wrong, as he evidently forgot to look under the upper tail-coverts.

Dr. A. B. Meyer described a *L. salvadorii* from Astrolabe Bay, German New Guinea, which differs from *L. erythrothorax* in its blue under wing-coverts. I have one before me from Simbang, German New Guinea, collected by Cpts. Webster and Cotton, which has the under wing-coverts blue, slightly intermixed with red! Another skin from the same place is a typical *L. erythrothorax*, but there are a few blue tips to the red under wing-coverts, a character also visible in a supposed skin of *L. erythrothorax* from an uncertain locality in the Tring Museum.

I have no doubt that *L. salvadorii*, and perhaps also *L. rubiensis*, will be no more than subspecies when more material has come to hand. E. H.

18. *Cyclopsitta suavisissima* Sel.

"Iris dark brown."

19. *Trichoglossus massena* Bp.

"Iris yellow."

20. *Eos fuscata* Blyth.

A *male* and a *female*, February. The *male* is very red, the *female* in a transition from the yellow to the red phase. "Iris of both sexes yellow." Dr. A. B. Meyer has, in the *Zeitschr. f. d. ges. Orn.*, 1886, p. 6, separated the S.E. New Guinea form from



that inhabiting North-Western New Guinea, naming it *Eos incondita*. Salvadori, in the *Cat. B.*, has not recognised that form as distinct, and it seems to me impossible to maintain it, there being a great deal of variation in this species, even among individuals from the same countries. E. H.

21. *Psittacella madaraszi* Meyer.

One *male*, January, Oriori district, 3000 feet. "Iris pink." Wing 94 mm.

22. *Psittacella brehmi pallida* Meyer.

A *female* from Oriori is like *females* of *Ps. brehmi typica* from Arfak, but the throat and the sides of the head are paler and more greenish. (See *anteà*, p. 18.) E. H.

23. *Microdynamis parva* (Salvad.).

An adult *male*, Oriori, January 20th, 1896. "Iris dark brown; feet dark grey; bill black." This is, I believe, the first adult *male* of this rare bird which reached England. E. H.

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A FEW ADDITIONS TO FORMER NOTES.

By ERNST HARTERT.

1.

BY an unfortunate mistake I left out of the list of birds collected by Mr. Everett in South Celebes a most interesting species:—

*Malia grata* Schleg.

A series of this bird was collected on Bonthain Peak at elevations of about 6000 feet. However, it is not only that a new locality is added for this rare species, but I think that our specimens prove that *Malia recondita* Mey. & Wigglesw., described *Abh. und Ber. Mus. Dresden*, 1894-95, No. 4, p. 1, is no species. It was described without comparing the only known specimen from South Celebes, merely judging from the descriptions of Schlegel (*Not. Leyden Mus.* II. p. 165 and VI. p. 175). No doubt, I think, Schlegel had a moulting or somewhat imperfect specimen, or his description, and specially his measurements, are incorrect, for our South Celebes specimens agree exactly with the one described by Meyer & Wigglesworth as *M. recondita*.

The principal differences of *M. recondita* are said to be:—

(1) Tarsus shorter (46 mm.), with seven scutellae in front, while there are eleven scutellae in the type of *M. grata*. Our Bonthain specimens have from eight to only four or five distinct scutellae, the upper ones being entirely fused in some. I know several instances where the young bird has more scutellae than the old one, as they fuse with age. Therefore this is not a good character. My tarsus-measurements give me 42 to 46.

(2) Sixth primary longest, fifth and seventh equal and one millimetre shorter





Rothschild, Lionel Walter Rothschild and Hartert, Ernst. 1896. "Contributions to the ornithology of the Papuan Islands." *Novitates zoologicae : a journal of zoology in connection with the Tring Museum* 3, 233–255.

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