

# ZOOLOGY OF BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

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THE present number contains the substance of Reports on the Zoological Collections made in 1890-91 in British New Guinea under the auspices of His Honour the Administrator. These Reports form the Appendices CC and DD to the Annual Report for the year 1890-91 of The Administrator, to the Queensland Government.

## Part I.—VERTEBRATA.

BY C. W. DE VIS.

### MAMMALIA.

#### DUFAURE ISLAND.

##### MICROCHIROPTERA.

VESPERUGO ABRAMUS, *Temminck*. Numerous examples, all rather less in size than normal, and with some of the females rufous beneath.

##### RODENTIA.

HYDROMYS LEUCOGASTER, *Gould*.

#### TROUBRIANDS.

##### MICROCHIROPTERA.

PHYLLORHINA PYGMÆA, *Waterhouse*.

#### SUDEST.

##### MICROCHIROPTERA.

VESPERUGO ABRAMUS, *Temminck*. Of normal size.

NYCTOPHILUS TIMORIENSIS, *Geoffroy*.

#### RIGO DISTRICT.

##### MICROCHIROPTERA.

RHINOLOPHUS RUFUS, *Peters*.

#### MOUNT SUCKLING.

##### MARSUPIALIA.

CUSCUS MACULATUS, *Lesson and Garnot*.



## AVES.

## MOUNT SUCKLING.

## PSITTACIDÆ.

*DASYPTILUS PESQUETI*, Lesson. Male; the feathers of the back dark-brown, edged with black; iris "grey-brown." July, 1891, at 2,548 feet.

## MUSCICAPIDÆ.

*RHIPIDURA AURICULARIS*, De Vis. Male, July, 1891, at 6,000 to 7,000 feet.

*PACHYCEPHALA SCHLEGELII*, Rosenberg. Flank feathers tipped with olive green; edge of wing yellow, spotted with black; terminal feathers of lower back tipped with yellow; feet fuscous brown; axillaries pale yellow. The example previously recorded from Mount Owen Stanley shows the same traits of variation—possibly both may indicate a representative species. Male, July, 1891, at between 6,000 and 7,000 feet.

*PÆCILEDRYAS VICARIA*, n.s. Simulating *P. bimaculata*, Salvadori, but smaller; with the under wing-coverts partly white, and the abdomen and vent almost entirely black.

General colour, velvet black. Upper tail-coverts, a line broad on the side of the lower throat, becoming narrow on the side of the upper breast and extending thus partly across the latter, terminal half of the under wing-coverts, tips of some of the feathers of the lower abdomen and vent, and terminal two-thirds of the under tail-coverts white. Lower surface of wings and tail ashy black. Bill and feet black. Total length, 140; wing, 86; tail, 60; gape, 16·0; culmen, 11·0; tarsus, 23·0. Male, July, 1891, at between 6,000 and 7,000 feet.

*GERYGONE INSPERATA*, n.s. Head, cheeks, ear-coverts, scapulars, back and upper tail-coverts brown with a pale fulvous wash; a narrow palpebral ring white. The lower surface and under tail-coverts white, rather sordid on the throat, and more distinctly stained with brown on the sides of the upper breast. Tail pale-brown on the basal half of the upper surface, the terminal half with a broad black band; the outermost feather with a large white subapical spot occupying both webs, the other laterals with a spot confined to the inner web and gradually decreasing in size, the median rectrices without spot; the tips of all uniform with the base. Wings above and wing-coverts fuscous brown, the quills narrowly edged with grey; beneath ashy brown, paler on the edges of the inner webs. Under wing-coverts white stained with brown. Bill and feet black. Total length, about 9·8; bill (?) basal half only; wing, 5·3; tail 4·6; tarsus, 16·0. One example in spirits, July, 1891, at between 6,000 and 7,000 feet.

## LANIIDÆ.

*PACHYCEPHALA SOROR*, Sclater. Tips of the terminal feathers of the lower back bright yellow, forming a narrow band. Male, July, 1891, at between 6,000 and 7,000 feet.



## MELIPHAGIDÆ.

MYZOMELA ROSENBERGII, *Schlegel*. Six adult males and one young male assuming adult livery, July, 1891, at 5,641 feet.

MELIPOTES MACULATA, *n.s.* Sides of breast with dark central spots. Head black; back and scapulars brown, slightly tinged with olive, the feathers with faintly paler edges; lower back and upper tail-coverts rather paler brown, uniform. Lower surface grey, paler on the throat; margins of the feathers of the upper breast and of the sides of the lower breast grey, centres of the latter dark fuscous forming distinct spots. Centre only of lower breast and abdomen tinged with fulvous. Edge of wing, under wing-coverts, and under tail-coverts pale sordid fulvous. A ridge of feathers longer than those of the throat proceeding from the lower base of the mandible beneath the wattle dark-brown, tipped with grey. Upper surface of wings, tail, and wing-coverts brown; the primaries narrowly, the secondaries and coverts more broadly, edged with grey. Wings and tail below ashy brown; inner edge of remiges sordid grey. Bill black with the tip brown; feet washed with lead colour. Total length, 190·0; wing, 113·0; tail, 114·0; gape, 22·0; culmen, 16·5; tarsus, 31·0. Female, July, 1891, at between 6,000 and 7,000 feet.

This bird has a longer bill, wing, and tail than *M. fumigatus*, *Meyer*, and is further distinguished by the regularly disposed blackish spots on the sides of the lower breast. It is clearly not represented by the figure of *M. fumigatus* in the *Zeitschrift für die Ges. Ornith.*, 1886, Heft II.

I here insert a description which should have appeared in my Report on the Owen Stanley birds:—

## TIMELIIDÆ.

AMALOCICHLA, *n.g.* Bill geocichline, but with the nostril small and placed in the anterior end of the nasal groove, and with the under mandible straight as far as the tip, which is slightly deflected; mandibular notch shallow. Rictal bristles moderate. Wing short, rounded, concave; first primary about half its length shorter than the second; second to fifth, which is the longest, graduated. Tail of twelve feathers, rounded, shorter than wing. Tarsus elongate, slender, ocreate. Plumage soft and loose.

AMALOCICHLA SCLATERIANA, *n.s.* Above rufous brown; head smoky brown; the feathers of the hind-head with fuscous margins. Upper and under tail-coverts rufous; chin and throat white, appearing as an ill-defined gorget; the feathers with narrow pale-brown edges, forming obscure transverse bars. Feathers of the upper breast greyish-white, with broad smoky-brown margins forming an ill-defined pectoral band. Lower breast, sides of abdomen, and thighs grey; centre of abdomen white. Lores grey mottled with brown; cheeks, ear-coverts, and sides of neck rufous, grading to rufous brown, and edged with fuscous brown. Under wing-coverts and surface of quills ashy-brown, the latter with a large buff spot near the base of the inner webs of all but



the first three primaries, the spots forming a clearly defined band. Bill black; base of lower mandible and feet horn-brown. Length, 195·0; wing, 103·0; tail, 71·0; tarsus, 47·0; gape, 24·0.

Hab.: Mount Owen Stanley. Sex?

Notwithstanding the geocichline affinities of this bird apparent in the bill and under-wing pattern, the form of the wing seems to relate it to the *Timeliidæ* proper. Its nearest ally appears to be *Ptilopyga*.

#### STURNIDÆ.

*PARAMYTHIA*, *n.g.* Bill shorter than the head, notched at the tip, compressed, acuminate; fore part of upper mandible curving gently to the tip; culmen obtuse; tomium somewhat inflected. Nostril exposed, elongate-ovate, placed in the basal half of the nasal groove, with a superior membrane. A few small soft rictal hairs. Wing subacuminate, subelongate; the first primary in place as long as the eighth; the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth forming the tip of the wing and nearly equal, the fourth the longest. Tail longer than wing, cuneate. Tarsus moderate, with scutellation entire. A small bare spot behind the eye. Head crested.

*PARAMYTHIA MONTIUM*, *n.s.* Chin, throat, forecheek, lore, a narrow supraciliary line, and a broad frontal crest extending over crown black; synciput and crown cream-white, the latter slightly tinged with blue; breast, upper abdomen, thigh, hinder cheek, and a broad band across occiput and upper back dull blue; the rest of the upper surface bright olive-green. Lower abdomen, vent, under tail-coverts, and a hypochondrial patch dull golden-yellow. Wing above fuscous, the primaries narrowly edged with greenish grey, the rest with olive green. Tail above brown on the inner, dull blue on the outer webs; the median feathers blue on both webs. Lower surface of wing and tail brown, inner webs of remiges obscurely edged with ashy grey. Under wing-coverts ashy grey with dark brown tips. Bill black, legs and feet blackish brown; iris brown. Total length, 190·0; wing, 87·0; tail, 110·0; bill (gape), 16·0; tarsus, 30·0. Female, July 28, 1891, at 6,900 feet, Disappointment Rock.

#### PARADISEIDÆ.

*LOPHORHINA SUPERBA*, *Pennant*. Male; total length, 195·0; iris brown. July 9, 1891, at 4,350 feet.

*PAROTIA LAWESII*, *Ramsay*. Female, July 26, 1891, at 4,100 feet.

*ASTRARCHIA STEPHANIÆ*, *Meyer*. The lengthened feathers of the head and the neck form a frill on either side; chin feathers scaly, outer webs of secondary remiges without bronze reflections; iris brown. Two males, July 29, 1891, at 7,723 feet. Female, same place and time.

*EPIMACHUS MACLEAYANÆ*, *Ramsay*. Male; iris grey-blue. July 28, 1891, at 6,900 feet. Female, same place and time, the sexes being seen in separate companies. Agrees with the female described by Dr. Finsch in every detail but total length, which depends so much on the collector's judgment in making up a skin. As the female of this



species is ascertained, and as the young male does not agree with Finsch's description of the type of *E. meyeri*, it appears that the male of *E. meyeri* is yet to be discovered.

CRASPEDOPHORA MAGNIFICA, *Vieillot*. Male, July 2, 1891, at 1,500 feet.

AMBLYORNIS SUBALARIS, *Sharpe*. Male, July 25, 1891, at 4,100 feet; shot in the vicinity of the bower described by one of the party, as follows:—

“The bower is built of twigs arranged in the shape of a shallow circular basin, about 3 feet in diameter, the side being some 6 inches higher than the centre. The whole of the basin is covered with a carpet of the greenest and most delicate moss, which, as it is of a different kind to that growing around on the ground, trees, roots, &c., led me to conjecture had been planted by the bird itself. The surface is scrupulously cleared of all leaves, twigs, &c. In the centre of the basin a small tree, without branches, about 2 inches in diameter, is growing. Immediately around this tree, and supported by it to the height of about 2 feet, is erected a light structure of small sticks and twigs, placed horizontally, and crossing one another. On the extreme outer edge of the basin a more substantial collection of twigs had been built up, which was arched above so as to join the collection around the centre pole, leaving a clear space beneath for the bird to pass through in his gambols. The basin has two entrances leading into it. They are 4 or 5 inches apart, and are formed by a depression or gap in the outer rim. The bower is placed immediately to the right of the entrances. At the opposite side to the entrances, and on the highest part of the raised rim of the basin, is placed a quantity of black sticks (4 inches or so in length), black beans, and the black-wing coverings of large Coleoptera. Black is evidently the most attractive colour to this bird.” It is clear that this bower resembles much that of *A. inornata*, as described by Beccari.

#### ST. AIGNAN.

##### MUSCICAPIDÆ.

MONARCHA GUTTULATUS, *Garnot*. Male; iris brown. July 4, 1891.

MONARCHA CHALYBEOCEPHALUS, *Garnot*. An example, with many partially concealed white-tipped feathers on the abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts. A small patch of impure white on the middle of the lower breast, and a white feather on the side of the breast. Male, July 6, 1891.

##### LANIIDÆ.

PACHYCEPHALA MELANURA, *Gould*. Female; iris light reddish-brown. July 8, 1891.

##### MELIPHAGIDÆ.

MYZOMELA NIGRITA, *G. R. Gray*. Immature male, July, 1891.



## RENARD ISLAND.

(A small island adjacent to St. Aignan.)

## MUSCICAPIDÆ.

MONARCHA INORNATUS, *Garnot*. Female, June 6, 1891.MONARCHA CHALYBEOCEPHALUS, *Garnot*. Female, June 6, 1891.RHIPIDURA, *sp.* Male, June 7, 1891.

This bird agrees in all respects, so far as can be seen, with the Admiralty Islands species, *R. semirubra*, *Sclater*; but its condition is such that no definite conclusion respecting it would be safe.

## LANIIDÆ.

LALAGE KARU, *Lesson*. Male, June 3, 1891.

PACHYCEPHALA COLLARIS, *Ramsay*. Probably a local form of this species. The wings fuscous, coverts darker fuscous, inner webs of remiges towards the base buffy-white, legs and feet flesh coloured. Iris dark-grey. Male, June 3, 1891.

## MELIPHAGIDÆ.

ZOSTEROPS GRISEOTINCTA, *G. R. Gray*. Young male, June 3, 1891.

## STURNIDÆ.

CALORNIS CANTOROIDES, *G. R. Gray*. Young male, June 3, 1891. Iris yellowish-red.

## COLUMBÆ.

CALÆNAS NICOBARICA, *Linnaeus*. Female.

## CHARADRIDÆ.

CHARADRIUS FULVUS, *Gmelin*. Male, in winter plumage, July 3, 1891.

## SUDEST.

## CYPSELIDÆ.

COLLOCALIA FUCIPHAGA, *Thunberg*. Male; iris black. June 30, 1891.

## MUSCICAPIDÆ.

MONARCHA CHALYBEOCEPHALUS, *Garnot*. Male; tips of abdominal and crissal feathers, and under tail-coverts streaked with greyish white. These insular specimens seem to tend towards the evolution of a species with a white abdomen and under tail-coverts. July 1, 1891. Female, June 30, 1891.

RHIPIDURA SETOSA, *Quoy and Gaimard*. Female, June 30, 1891.

## LANIIDÆ.

EOPSALTRIA SUDESTENSIS, *n.s.* Head, wings, and tail dark-brown; back, scapulars, wing-coverts, and outer margins of remiges rufous brown; median rectrices tinged with rufous brown; a broad line from the nostril over the eye, cheeks, ear-coverts, and upper chest pale rufous brown; throat white, slightly tinged with brown; lower chest and abdomen white; under tail-coverts, under wing-coverts, and carpal edge white stained with brown; wing and tail beneath pale ashy-brown, the shafts fuscous above and white beneath; the inner webs of the



remiges grey beneath. Bill black, feet brown. Iris brown. Total length, 137·0; wing, 80·0; tail, 68·0; gape, 16·0; culmen, 11·5; tarsus, 17·5. June 30, 1891.

## MELIPHAGIDÆ.

PTILOTIS ANALOGA, *Reichenbach*. Male; iris brown. June 30, 1891; male, iris grey-brown.

## PARADISEIDÆ.

CHLAMYDODERA CERVINIVENTRIS, *Gould*. Male, June 30, 1891.

## FERGUSON ISLAND.

## PARADISEIDÆ.

PARADISEA DECORA, *Salvin and Godman*. Male in full plumage, female in full plumage.

## NORMANBY ISLAND.

## TRICHOGLOSSIDÆ.

LORIUS HYPENOCROUS, *G. R. Gray*. Male, immature, June 18, 1891.

## TROUBRIANDS.

## CUCULIDÆ.

LAMPROCOCYX PÆCILURUS, *G. R. Gray*. Male; iris brown. July, 1891.

## BARTLE BAY.

## FALCONIDÆ.

UROSPIZIAS POLIOCEPHALUS, *G. R. Gray*. Young male, June 15, 1891.

## MUSCICAPIDÆ.

MALURUS MORETONI, *n.s.* Similar to *M. alboscapulatus*, but the wings brown and the feet pallid.

Head, back, upper surface of tail, and all beneath black, with a slight blue sheen on the upper surface, duller beneath, and passing into brownish-black on the upper surface of the tail. Wing above and below pale greyish-brown; the innermost secondaries and upper coverts sooty-brown, the former edged narrowly, the latter broadly, with black. Scapulars white. Under wing-coverts white with black edges. Bill black; feet pale flesh-colour; iris brown. Total length, 120; wing, 45·0; tail, 51·0; gape, 14·0; culmen, 10·5; tarsus, 20·0. Male, June 15, 1891.

## CAMPOPHAGIDÆ.

LALAGE TRICOLOR, *Swainson*. Male in immature plumage, June 12, 1891.

## COLLINGWOOD BAY.

## PARADISEIDÆ.

MANUCODIA ATRA, *Lesson*. Male, July 18, 1891.

## GOURIDÆ.

GOURA VICTORIÆ, *Fraser*. Adult male; iris scarlet. August 2, 1891. Failing to discover any sensible difference in colouring or dimensions between this bird and *G. victoria*, I am constrained to believe that the species has a far more extended range than has hitherto been



credited to it. Its occurrence at the east end of the island tends to strengthen the suspicion that the distinguishing character of *G. beccarii* is accidental.

SAMARAI.

FALCONIDÆ.

LEUCOSPIZIAS LEUCOSOMUS, *Sharpe*. Male.

PARMIETTA.

DICÆIDÆ.

DICÆUM RUBROCORONATUM, *Sharpe*. Female; iris brown.

LALOKI.

ALCEDINIDÆ.

TANYSIPTERA GALATEA, *G. R. Gray*. Immature; May, 1891.

FIR-TREE POINT.

PELECANIDÆ.

FREGATA AQUILA. *Linnæus*. Male, immature, August 4, 1891.

TALOKELE.

ARDEIDÆ.

HERODIAS INTERMEDIA, *Hasselt*. (Sex?) Iris yellow.

PANAPOMPOM.

MUSCICAPIDÆ.

MIAGRA PLUMBEA, *Vigors and Horsfield*. Male, July 9, 1891. Iris dark-brown.

LOCALITIES UNRECORDED.

ALCEDINIDÆ.

SAUROPATIS SAUROPHAGA, *Gould*.

SAUROPATIS SANCTA, *Vigors and Horsfield*. Two examples.

MUSCICAPIDÆ.

RHIPIDURA SETOSA, *Quoy and Gaimard*.

NECTARINIDÆ.

HERMOTIMIA ASPASIA, *Lesson*. Four males.

CYRTOSTOMUS FRENATUS, *S. Müller*. Female.

DICÆIDÆ.

DICÆUM RUBROCORONATUM, *Sharpe*. Two males, one female.

MELIPHAGIDÆ.

MYZOMELA NIGRITA, *G. R. Gray*.

ZOSTEROPS GRISEOTINCTA, *G. R. Gray*.

PARADISEIDÆ.

MANUCODIA COMRIEI, *Sclater*.

PARADISEA RAGGIANA, *Sclater*. Male.

CRASPEDOPHORA MAGNIFICA, *Vieillot*. Two males.

MEGAPODIDÆ.

MEGAPODIUS MACGILLIVRAYI, *G. R. Gray*.



## RALLIDÆ.

GYMNOCREX PLUMBEIVENTRIS, *G. R. Gray.*

## HÆMATOPODIDÆ.

HÆMATOPUS LONGIROSTRIS, *Vieillot.*

## ARDEIDÆ.

ZONERODIUS HELIOSYLUS, *Lesson.*

## ANATIDÆ.

TADORNA RADJAH, *Garnot.*

## REPTILIA.

## TROUBRIANDS.

## LACERTILIA.

*Varanidæ.*VARANUS INDICUS, *Daudin.**Agamidæ.*GONIOCEPHALUS PAPUENSIS, *Macleay.**Scincidæ.*HETEROPUS FUSCUS, *Dumeril and Bibron.*

## OPHIDIA.

*Dendrophidæ.*DENDROPHIS PUNCTULATUS, *Gray.*

## SUDEST.

## LACERTILIA.

*Geckonidæ.*

GYMNODACTYLUS LOUISIADENSIS, *n.s.* Head much broader than the body, depressed, ovate; body convex; tail cylindrical, tapering. The hind limb protracted reaches the shoulder; digits moderately depressed at the base, strongly compressed beyond; basal phalanges with ten to eleven broad transverse plates. Rostral oblong, nearly twice as long as high, with a median groove above. Nostril between rostral, first supralabial, a large supranasal, and several nasals. Labials 12/10, mental triangular entering between first pair of chin-shields which are in contact behind it. Head minutely granular, the granules larger on the snout and supraorbital regions; back finely granular with small smooth tubercles disposed mesially in longitudinal, laterally in oblique, rows, of which the former are the more regular; twenty-six rows in all, defined beneath by a lateral fold on each side; tail above with larger flat granules and transverse rows of small tubercles at regular intervals along the basal half; below with the granules enlarging towards the mid line, which is broadly shielded by a series of transverse scutes; chin and throat minutely granular; breast and abdomen with larger flat imbricate cycloid scales. Above pale vinous grey with five broad dark-grey cross-bands becoming nearly black on their hinder edges, the first cross-band, V-shaped, running from eye to eye over the occiput; base of tail with broad nearly black rings, the intervals and the rest of the



tail white; lower surfaces sordid white. Total length, 130; length of head, 18; breadth of head, 13·5; body, 36·0; fore limb, 20·0; hind limb, 26·6; tail, 76·0.

*Scincidæ.*

HINULIA JOBIENSIS, *Meyer.*? Numerous examples with the digits shorter, the black spots on the side of the neck and shoulder small and continued serially from head to tail—differences which do not seem to be more than varietal.

EMOA CYANOASTER, *Lesson.*

MOCOA NOCTUA, *Lesson.*

MOCOA CÆRULEOCAUDA, *n.s.*

Body short, stout; tail slender; snout short, thick. Fronto-nasal broader than long, in sutural contact with rostral, equally so with frontal. Fronto- and interparietals fused. Parietals in sutural contact behind interparietal. One pair of large nuchals. Four supraoculars. Eight supraorbitals, the last minute. Fifth upper labial elongate, subocular. Ear-orifice much smaller than eye-slit, oval, vertical, with three minute lobules in front. Twenty-six smooth streaked scales round the body. Two pairs of preanals moderately enlarged. A dorso-lateral band from each supraciliary series inclusive, the sides of the neck, of the body, and base of tail black with brilliant metallic reflections, especially on the head. A vertebral band from rostral to base of tail, and a second from each supraorbital series inclusive becoming confluent on upper base of tail pale yellow, on the head darker and with golden reflections, and changing to blue on the hips; all the upper surface of the tail pure pale blue. Beneath pale shining buff, under surface of tail pale sordid blue at the base, purer towards tip. Limbs fuscous black spotted with white, blue, and buff. Total length, 100·0; length of head, 9·0; width of head, 5·7; body, 28·0; fore tail, limb, 13·0; hind limb, 18·0; tail, 63·0.

EMOA CYANOASTER, *Lesson.*

EMOA BAUDINII, *Gray.* Several examples of a scinc which is very possibly only a local variety of this species, with which it agrees in structural characters, but not in colouring. The upper and lateral surfaces are nearly black; there is a broad but obscure pale vertebral line from the occiput to the base of the tail, and a narrower but brighter line along the flank.

HETEROPUS FUSCUS, *Dumeril and Bibron.*

OPHIDIA.

ENYGRUS CARINATUS, *Schneider.*

MOUNT SUCKLING.

LACERTILIA.

TILIQUA GIGAS, *Schneider.*

OPHIDIA.

ACANTHOPHIS ANTARCTICA, *Shaw*; var. LEVIS, *Macleay.*





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