

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW CUCKOO-SHRIKE FROM AUSTRALIA.

BY W. E. CLYDE TODD.

There is in the Carnegie Museum a small but interesting collection of birds from Australia and New Guinea, made by Messrs. Shelley W. and Sherman F. Denton in 1881-83. In working over the Campephagidæ belonging to this collection an apparently new race of *Lalage leucomela* has been discovered, which I propose to call:

***Lalage leucomela insulicola*, subsp. nov.**

Similar to *Lalage leucomela leucomela* (Vigors and Horsfield) from Queensland, but male almost pure white below, with no trace of grayish shading, and the buffy cinnamon area paler and more restricted, confined to the crissum and under tail-coverts; the white on the tail more restricted. Female also much whiter below than the same sex of *leucomela*, with the buffy cinnamon color paler and virtually confined to the posterior under parts, almost as in the male; the white on the tail less in extent. The size is about the same as in typical *leucomela*.

All in all the pair of birds on which the above name is based seem to represent a strongly marked subspecies, or perhaps species. Mr. Mathews (Novitates Zoologicae, XVIII, 1912, 329) has described a race from Cape York under the name *yorki*, the only character being the smaller size. In his Birds of Australia, IX, iv, 1921, 156, he refers to Campbell's note on the peculiarities of birds from the islands in Torres Straits, which confirms those I have already indicated, but apparently without attaching any especial significance to the circumstance.

I am indebted to Dr. Charles W. Richmond and Mr. Joseph H. Riley for comparing the two birds in question with additional material of *leucomela* in the collection of the U. S. National Museum.

Type, No. 35,774, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; Friday Island, Torres Straits, Queensland, June 15, 1883; Shelley W. Denton.



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