

- Malherbe, A. 1862. *Monographie des picidées, ou histoire naturelle des picidés, picumminés, yuncinés ou torcols*, vol. 2. Société d'Histoire Naturelle de la Moselle, Metz.
- Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1966. *The species of birds of South America and their distribution*. Livingston Publishing Co., Narberth, PA.
- Papavero, N. 1971. *Essays on the history of Neotropical dipterology*, vol. 1. Mus. Zool., Univ. São Paulo.
- Paynter, R. A. 1993. *Ornithological gazetteer of Ecuador*. Second edn. Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA.
- Ridgely, R. S. & Greenfield, P. J. 2001. *The birds of Ecuador*, vol. 1. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.
- Schulenberg, T. S. & Batcheller, H. 2012. Plain-breasted Piculet (*Picumnus castelnau*). In Schulenberg, T. S. (ed.) *Neotropical Birds Online*. http://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/portal/species/overview?p_p_spp=307256 (accessed 27 December 2012).
- von Seilern, J. 1936. Ornithologische Miscellen. I. Bemerkungen über Vögel aus Südostperu. *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien* 47: 33–40.
- Short, L. L. 1982. *Woodpeckers of the world*. Delaware Mus. Nat. Hist. Monogr. No. 4, Greenville.
- Stephens, L. & Traylor, M. A. 1983. *Ornithological gazetteer of Peru*. Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA.
- Voisin, C. & Voisin, J.-F. 2010. List of type specimens of birds in the collections of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris, France). 20. Piciformes (Part 2: Picidae). *J. Natl. Mus. (Prague), Nat. Hist. Ser.* 179: 7–26.
- Winkler, H. & Christie, D. A. 2002. Family Picidae (woodpeckers). Pp. 296–555 in del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. (eds.) *Handbook of the birds of the world*, vol. 7. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Address: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY, USA, email tss62@cornell.edu

On a possible type specimen of *Tropidorhynchus fuscicapillus* Wallace, 1862, in New York

by Mary LeCroy

Received 11 January 2013

A recent paper on specimens of Dusky Friarbird *Philemon fuscicapillus* from Morotai Island, Indonesia, listed AMNH 697224 as a possible syntype of *Tropidorhynchus fuscicapillus* Wallace, 1862 (Besson 2012: 239). After correspondence with Besson, I did not accept this specimen as a possible syntype of Wallace's name and did not include it in my list of AMNH types (LeCroy 2011). The following are my reasons.

AMNH 697224 came to the American Museum of Natural History (New York) via the Rothschild Collection in 1932. Rothschild was cognisant of the value of prior labels and if this specimen had possessed an original label it would have remained and an additional Rothschild label would have been attached; often the history of his specimens can be unraveled based on their labels. AMNH 697224, in fact, does not even possess a Rothschild label; the single label it does bear is stamped 'Rothschild Collection' with a rubber stamp, which was done either before the specimen was shipped or after it arrived in New York, in order for its provenance to be traceable. It was one of five specimens of the species that came to AMNH with the Rothschild Collection, the other four having been collected by J. M. Dumas on Morotai (LeCroy & Jansen 2011) and were noted on the Rothschild label as having been collected by the former.

There is nothing to connect AMNH 697224 to Allen or to Wallace. There is, in fact, nothing on the label (Fig. 1) that provides a clue as to the collector. The old name '*Tropidorhynchus*' has been substituted with '*Philemon*'. Subsequently, apparently after it had been given its AMNH number, '*fuscicapillus*!' was added in a different hand. There is no locality or date of collection on the label and the reverse is blank.

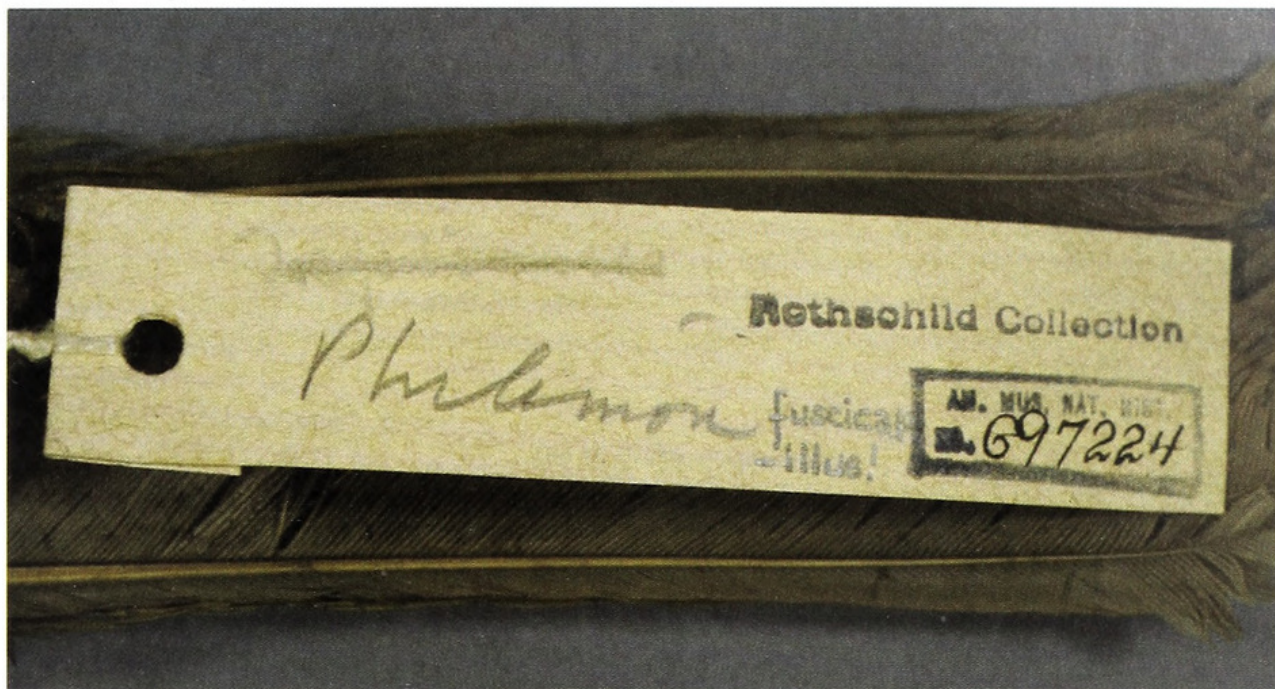


Figure 1. The single label on AMNH 697224; the reverse is blank (Matthew Shanley / AMNH Staff Photographer)



Figure 2. Ventral (top) and lateral views of AMNH 697224 (Matthew Shanley / AMNH Staff Photographer)

I do not consider the characteristics listed by Besson (2012: 243) as diagnostic of Allen's skinning technique to be unique. Furthermore, the specimen itself does not exhibit the characteristics listed. Fig. 2 shows the two photographs of AMNH 697224 sent to Besson in February 2011. The neck is slightly elongated, but the breast does not bulge, nor is the abdomen very flat, and while the feet are crossed, the legs are not tied to date (see Editorial comment) .

In some cases within the AMNH type lists, I have included specimens for which I considered their type status questionable and have so indicated this in the text. In this case, I have seen no evidence to date that the specimen in question might be a type and therefore do not accept it as such.

Acknowledgements

I thank Robert Prÿs-Jones, Edward Dickinson, Thomas Trombone and Paul Sweet for comments on earlier drafts, and Frank Steinheimer for his remarks on the submitted version.

References:

- Besson, L. 2012. The collecting history and distribution of Dusky Friarbird *Philemon fuscicapillus* (Morotai, Indonesia) elucidated from museum data. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 132: 236–250.
- LeCroy, M. 2011. Type specimens of birds in the American Museum of Natural History. Part 9. Passeriformes: Zosteropidae and Meliphagidae. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 348: 1–193.
- LeCroy, M. & Jansen, J. J. F. J. 2011. Jo[h]annes Maximiliaan Dumas, bird collector in the East Indies and New Guinea. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 131: 171–188.

Address: Dept. of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, USA, e-mail: lecroy@amnh.org

EDITORIAL COMMENT.—The author of the paper discussed here, Ludovic Besson (*in litt.* 2013), has requested that we note that the legs of Allen's specimens are not in fact tied, *contra* Besson (2012: 243).



LeCroy, Mary. 2013. "On a possible type specimen of *Tropidorhynchus fuscicapillus* Wallace, 1862, in New York." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 133(1), 78–80.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/252425>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/272424>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: British Ornithologists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <http://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.