



MUNIA FORBESI, *Sclater*.

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Forbes's Munia.

Munia forbesi, Slater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1879, p. 449, pl. xxxvii. fig. 3.—Reichenow & Schalow, Journ. f. Orn. 1880, p. 203.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genova, xvi. p. 192 (1880).—Id. Ornitologia della Papuasias &c. p. 438 (1881).

THIS is a very fine and large species of *Munia*, recently discovered in New Ireland by the Rev. George Brown, who procured one specimen only, in the district of Topaio, in September 1878. In the style of coloration it differs greatly from the species of the genus which are found in Australia and the Papuan Islands, and belongs rather to the Indian group, of which *Munia malacca* is the type.

In addition to the large size of the present species, it may be told from any of the other Papuan *Munias* by the following characters, which are here quoted from Count Salvadori's new work on the Ornithology of New Guinea. It has the upper tail-coverts, as well as the rump, rufous, the sides of the body rufous, not streaked with black; and the head and under tail-coverts are black, while the breast and entire abdomen are rufous. The nearest ally to the present bird is *Munia jagori* of the Philippines; but that species has the breast and abdomen black like the remainder of the undersurface.

Dr. Slater gave the following diagnosis of the species, which is named after Mr. W. A. Forbes, the well-known Prosecutor to the Zoological Society, who has made a special study of the Fringillidæ:—

Rufous, a little paler underneath; head all round, as well as the throat, flanks, and lower part of the belly, including the thighs and under tail-coverts, black, the latter being elongated; bill and feet black; the bill very stout.

Total length 4 inches, wing 2, tail 1·5.

The Plate represents two birds, of the size of life. They are drawn from the unique specimen now in the British Museum, and lent to me by Dr. Slater before its incorporation in the national collection.



Gould, John and Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1881. "Munia forbesi, Forbes's Munia [Pl. 23]." *The birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands : including many new species recently discovered in Australia* 4(XII), –.
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