

NOVITATES ZOOLOGICAE.

Vol. XXI.

OCTOBER 1914.

No. 4.

THE BIRDS OF THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS, NORTH OF GERMAN NEW GUINEA

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(Plate X.)

THE Admiralty Islands consist of one large island and a number of small ones. The group lies between latitudes $1^{\circ} 50'$ and $3^{\circ} 10'$ S., and longitudes 146° and 148° E. The main island, or Manus, is distant from New Hanover about 130 miles, and from the nearest point of New Guinea about 150 miles. It is oblong, almost square in form, and about 50 miles long and 16 wide. The area is about 550 square miles, that is, about twice the size of the Isle of Man, or three times that of Middlesex. The main island is mostly of small elevation, but contains mountains rising to about 1600 feet. Coral sand rock and trachytic lava seem to compose not only some of the small outlying islands, but also considerable portions of the main isle.

The climate is extremely damp, and the main island is densely wooded. (From Moseley's *Naturalist on the "Challenger,"* p. 448, and *Journ. Anthropol. Inst.* 1877.)

Only one collection of birds has hitherto been described from the Admiralty Islands :

H.M.S. *Challenger* arrived at Nares Harbour, on the east part of the north coast, on March 3, 1875, and anchored to the lee of Wild Island or Sori. She left again on March 10.

Fifty-six specimens were collected during the sojourn, embracing twenty-seven species, of which six were at once described as new.

Since that time no collection of birds has been made on the Admiralty Islands, probably on account of the hostile character of the natives who inhabit the group.

Recently one or more settlements have been made on the main island, and so it has become possible to collect there. It has been our wish for many years to possess the species described from the Admiralty Islands, and we also expected some novelties. We have therefore urged our indefatigable collector Mr. Albert S. Meek to make an attempt at collecting there. In September 1913 Mr. Meek was ready to undertake this task, but he fell ill and was unable to do so. Fortunately he was able to put his boat, the *Shamrock*, under the command of the quartermaster of a German steamer, who had leave to take this job, and so his party, well trained, tried, and instructed, went to the main island, Manus, and collected there for the greater part of the months of September and October 1913.

The collection made by Meek's party embraces forty-six species, of which

twelve have been described by us as new species and subspecies, eight in the *Bull. B.O. Club*, vol. xxxiii., and four in the present article. The party camped close to the German settlement, in the neighbourhood of which the collection was made, as a penetration into the mountains of the interior could not be attempted.

Of the species collected by the *Challenger* two important ones are unfortunately not represented :

1. *Myzomela pammelaena* Scl., *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1877, p. 553 ; *Report B. Voy. "Challenger,"* Admiralty Is., p. 28, pl. vii. fig. 3.

We cannot say how this species came to be unrepresented—whether it was overlooked, or whether it does not occur in the part of the island where the collection was made.

2. *Halcyon admirabilitatis* Sharpe.

Halcyon saurophaga (non Gould!) Scl., *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1877, p. 544 ; *Rep. B. Voy. "Challenger,"* 1881, p. 30.

Halcyon admirabilitatis Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xvii. p. 251 (1892—Admiralty Islands).

It is probable that this interesting form does not occur on the main island, Manus, but, like several of its congeners, on small, outlying, low islands. The collectors of the *Challenger* also obtained it only on the little islet of D'Entrecasteaux (not to be mistaken for the D'Entrecasteaux group near the south-east end of British New Guinea).

The other birds collected by the naturalists of the *Challenger* and not by Meek's party are :

1. *Monarcha inornatus* (Garn.)—A wide-spread flycatcher.
2. *Haliaëtus leucogaster* (Gm.)—Wide-spread.
3. *Pandion haliaëtus leucocephalus* Gould—Wide-spread.
4. "*Fregata ariel*" Gould—The small frigate-bird.
5. "*Esacus magnirostris*" Temm.—Wide-spread.
6. "*Charadrius mongolicus*" Pall.—Wide-spread migrant.
7. *Strepsilas interpres* (L.)—Almost cosmopolitan migrant.
8. *Heteractitis incanus brevipes* (Vieill.)—Wide-spread migrant.
9. *Anous stolidus* (L.)—Wide-spread sea-bird.
10. *Anous melanogenys* Gray.
11. *Sterna bergii* Licht.—Wide-spread sea-bird.

The number of birds known from the Admiralty Islands is thus altogether fifty-nine. This number can of course be increased by some more migratory shore-birds and sea-birds, but also a few new land-birds may possibly still be discovered. The interior of the island is likely to have a *Munia* and a *Dicaeum*, and where such striking forms as *Pitta superba* and *Ceyx dispar* could be discovered, other unknown ones may still be hidden in the remoter parts of the forests. Nevertheless the collection made by Meek's party surpassed our expectations, and the collectors may be congratulated on their great success.

The literature referring to the Admiralty Islands alone is :

1. **Sclater**, "On the Birds of the Admiralty Islands," in *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1877, pp. 551-557.
2. **Sclater**, *Voy. "Challenger," Report on Birds.* pp. 25-34, plates vii., viii., ix., x., xi. (Reprinted with additions and corrections from *P. Z. S.* 1877).
3. **Rothschild and Hartert**, in *Bull. B. O. Club*, xxxiii. pp. 105-109 (February 1914. Description of eight new species and subspecies).

For more correct and more modern identifications and nomenclature should chiefly be consulted the volumes of the *Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum*, and **Reichenow**, "Vögel der Bismarckinseln," in *Mitt. Zool. Sammlung Mus. Berlin*, i. 3, 1899, pp. 1-106.

1. *Anas superciliosa pelewensis* Hartl. & Finsch.

[*Anas superciliosa* Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* i. 2. p. 537 (1789—"Habitat in Nova Seelandia." Ex. Latham !)]

Anas superciliosa var. *pelewensis* Hartlaub & Finsch, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1872, p. 108 (Pelew Islands; separated on account of smaller size).

Anas superciliosa pelewensis Rothsch. & Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* 1905, p. 248.

2 ♀♀ ad., 9. x. 1913. "Iris brown; feet dull pale clay-yellow; bill slate and black." (Nos. 6229, 6230.)

Wings of both, 223, 224 mm.

With regard to the differences of the smaller form we can only repeat what we have said in 1905. The two birds from Manus certainly belong to the smaller race, from their size and generally dark colour. This race has wings from 220 to 242 mm. in length.

Mr. Mathews (*Austral Avian Record*, i. 2, p. 33, 1912) has separated a duck from West Australia under the name of "*A. s. rogersi*." His diagnosis is: "Differs from *A. s. superciliosa* in its larger size: wing 258 mm. Type Augusta, West Australia, No. 10,377. Range West Australia, Northern Territory." There is no indication how many specimens the author examined, but as he gives only one measurement (258 mm.!) one must suppose that he had very few, if not only one bird—sex not stated. If he had measured a series, he could hardly have given one measure only in mm. We find that it is difficult to discover many specimens which agree to the mm. in their wing-measurement.

In 1913, "List of the Birds in Australia," p. 91, in which the method of the *Handlist of British Birds* in quoting binomial names for each "species" or chain of subspecies is adopted, Mr. Mathews accepts *A. s. rogersi* as the only form of the genus *Anas* occurring in Australia, and gives as its range Australia and Tasmania.

We should not object to this, and would have to accept the name, if it was certain that Australian specimens were larger than those from New Zealand.

Unfortunately the wing varies in New Zealand as well as in Australia from 245 (only one) and 250 to 270 mm., and Mr. Mathews' one measurement is thus far below the largest one found in New Zealand, and not even larger than the average in the Tring Museum.

Praiseworthy and scientific as Mr. Mathews' principles of studying closely allied forms undoubtedly are, his method of comparing and measuring appears to be wrong, as applied to the present case.

2. *Charadrius dominicus fulvus* Gm.

Charadrius fulvus Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* i. 2. p. 687 (1789—Tahiti, Society Islands).

♂ ♀ Manus, 12. x. 1913. (Nos. 6247, 6248).

3. *Numenius phaeopus variegatus* (Scop.).

Tantalus variegatus Scopoli, *Del. Flor. Faun. Insubr.*, fasc. ii. p. 92 (1786—Luzon).

♀ Manus, 27. ix. 1913. (No. 6173).

The collectors of the "Challenger" had already obtained specimens.

4. *Tringa hypoleuca* L.

Tringa hypoleucos Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* ed. x. 1. p. 149 (1758—"Europa." Restricted typical locality: Sweden!).

2 ♂♂ ad. Manus, 11., 14. x. 1913 (Nos. 6239, 6258).

The collectors of the *Challenger* had already obtained specimens.

5. *Erolia acuminata* (Horsf.).

Totanus acuminatus Horsfield, *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond.* xiii. p. 192 (1821—Java, winter visitor).

[In view of the somewhat important differences of the bill, size, and shape of tail, it will be necessary to treat "*Erolia maculata*," or more correctly *E. pectoralis*,* as species, and not as subspecies.—E. H.]

4 "♀" ad. Manus, 9. ix. 1913 (Nos. 6000, 6001, 6002, 6003).

7 ♂♀ juv. Manus, 10-14. x. 1913 (Nos. 6236, 6237, 6240, 6241, 6245, 6256, 6259).

6. *Erolia minuta ruficollis* (Pall.).

Trynga ruficollis Pallas, *Reise Russ. Reichs*, iii. p. 700 (1776—Siberia).

7 ♂♀ juv., most already changing into the winter-plumage, Manus, 14. x. 1913. (Nos. 6251—6257).

7. *Gallinago megala* Swinh.

Gallinago megala Swinhoe, *Ibis*, 1861, p. 343. (On the road to Peking).

"♀" Manus, 10. x. 1913 (No. 6235).

8. *Porphyrio ellioti* Salvad.

Porphyrio ellioti Salvadori, *Atti R. Accad. Torino* xiv. p. 1168 (1879—Admiralty Islands).

4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, Manus, 7-16. ix. 1913 (Nos. 5990, 5991, 5999, 6028, 6040, 6041, 6073).

"Iris brownish red, dark red; bill red; feet pink with dull black joints."

Wings: males 216-230, females 210-211 mm.

This fine series is quite constant, only varying in size. As in all forms of *Porphyrio*, the females are smaller than the males.

It is perhaps not correct to place "*Porphyrio neobritannicus*" A. B. Meyer (*Abhandl. Mus. Dresden*, 1890-91, no. 4, p. 15) as a synonym of *ellioti*, but we are not in a position, at this moment, to decide about this, as no series is available. We use binomial nomenclature for *P. ellioti*, as we cannot, at present, review the genus, in order to decide how to arrange the species into chains of subspecies.

[In the *Ibis*, 1899, p. 281, and in the Appendix to Webster's *Through New Guinea*, p. 375, I have quoted two skins, one from St. Gabriel, the easternmost outlying islet of the Admiralty group, and the other from New Hanover, as *P. calvus* or ?*P. ellioti* = *neobritannicus*. The one from New Hanover, however—as I have already explained in Webster's book—is different, and I am now of opinion that it rather belongs to the *melanotus* group, while the one from St. Gabriel appears to be *ellioti*, though the frontal shield is less rounded behind,

* Cf. Mathews, *B. Australia* iii. p. 261.

so that it somewhat approaches *P. calvus* of Java, which differs widely from *elliotti* in having the frontal shield more swollen and almost square.—E. H.]

An egg was found on September 16. It is of a pale clay-colour with rufous spots and underlying mauve ones, and measures 51.5 × 33.8 mm.

9. *Demigretta sacra* (Gm.).

Ardea sacra Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* i. 2, p. 640 (1789—Tahiti! ex Latham).

♀ Manus, 14. x. 1913. (No. 6260).

This specimen is in the slate-coloured plumage, with a white line along the middle of the throat.

We cannot agree with Mr. Mathews' theory that the slate-coloured and the white Reef-Herons are two different species, and that the pied specimens are hybrids between the two—a theory which, besides, leads him to reject the name *sacra* in favour of "*matook*" of Vieillot. At the very best, as the case is put by Mr. Mathews, it would only be one theory pitted against another, which has many more probabilities in its favour. But it is not even that, for he has, apparently, overlooked two facts: first, that Dr. Heinroth has taken a white and a grey young bird from the same nest, and secondly that *Hydranassa rufa* in America, *Demigretta gularis* of tropical Africa, *D. asha* of India, and "*Florida caerulea*" of America present more or less the same phenomena. The fact that hitherto only slate-coloured birds have been observed in New Zealand is, in our opinion, not a proof of Mr. Mathews' theory; we see no reason why in one isolated country a dichromatic bird should not be found in one of its plumages only.

The case of the two crows, *Corvus cornix* and *C. corone*, to which our friend refers, is an entirely different one, because in that case two species inhabit strictly limited areas, and interbreed only where they meet, along the boundaries of their countries. Moreover, we would venture to think that the two birds would most likely not only differ in their grey and albino-like white colour (the latter the normal and sole colour of many species of herons!) if they lived together as two distinct species.

10. *Nycticorax caledonicus caledonicus* (Gm.). (?)

Ardea caledonica Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* i. 2, p. 626 (1789—"Habitat in Nova Caledonia." Ex Latham, *Syn.* iii. 1, p. 55, where a description from Forster's MS. is given).

1 ♂ ad. (No. 6161), 1 ♂ med. (No. 6214), ♂ ♀ juv. (Nos. 6200, 6210), Manus, September and October 1913. Wing of adult male 294 mm.

"Iris dark yellow; bill entirely black; feet dull yellow."

The adult male has the superciliary line pale rufescent and the tip of the long nuchal plumes black; the latter character does not hold good from an examination of other skins from the Admiralty Islands in the British Museum, and the rufescent eyebrow is also found in Australian birds, though it is generally more whitish in the latter. The upperside of the Manus bird is rather rich and dark, but that is no sufficient reason to separate it from the Australian form, as no series of the Admiralty form is available. If ever such a series should come to hand it might be possible to separate them, though this is very doubtful.

Mr. Mathews (*B. Austr.* iii. p. 459) calls the Australian Night-Heron "*Nycticorax caledonicus hilli*," without explaining why he considers it to be

different from the New Caledonian form. Until we know that differences exist, we cannot accept another name for the Australian bird than "*caledonicus*."

We, apparently, do not know whether the rufous Night-Heron is resident and breeding in New Caledonia, or whether it is only an accidental visitor. Dr. Sarasin seems to have seen it only once, though he says that there is a series in the Museum at Noumea.

11. *Dupetor flavicollis nesophilus* (Sharpe).

Ardeirallus nesophilus Sharpe, *Bull. B. O. Club* iii, no. xvi, p. xxxii (1894—Duke of York Island).

♂ ad. Manus, 11. x. 1913. (No. 6242).

"Iris bright yellow; bill black, lower mandible below light horn-colour; feet black."

12. *Megapodius duperreyii eremita* Hartl.

Megapodius eremita Hartlaub, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1867, p. 830 (Echiquier Islands, north of New Guinea).

We have little doubt that the Megapodes from the Admiralty Islands are the same as those found on the Echiquier group, but we can hardly say so with absolute certainty before we have compared a series from the original locality. As it is, we find the birds from Manus very dark, and generally rather small. The wings are from 205 to 217, but in one case 225 mm. Specimens from New Britain appear to be perfectly similar, but we have only a few, and somewhat ancient specimens! On the other hand, the majority of our skins from the Solomon Islands are larger, with longer tarsi and wings of 220 to 230 mm., and often paler. The Solomon Islands birds would therefore probably be separable as *M. duperreyi brenchleyi* Gray.

We received from Manus:

9 ♂ ♀ ad., 5 ix.—10. x. 1913 (Nos. 5966, 6092, 6101, 6139, 6184, 6197, 6203, 6204, 6213).

"Iris dark brown; bill yellow, base greenish black; feet black (with a greenish tinge)." The forehead is rather bright red in all the skins.

13. *Caloenas nicobarica* (L.).

Columba nicobarica Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* ed. x. 1. p. 164 (1758—"insula Nicobar").

3 ♂♂ ad., 1 ♀ fere ad., Manus, September, October 1913 (Nos. 5986, 6064, 6153, 6227).

The ♀ is in moult, the tail is white with two black feathers of the juvenile plumage remaining.

14. *Chalcophaps stephani* Rehb.

Chalcophaps stephani Reichenbach, *Vollst. Naturg., Columbariae*, p. 47. Nov. pl. 259. fig. 2595 (1851—"Celebes, westliches, Neu-Guinea, Triton-Bay und Salomonis-Inseln, besonders die Insel Saint Jeorge").

♂ ad., Manus, 28. ix. 1913, ♀ ad. 27. ix. 1913, ♀ juv. 29. ix. 1913 (Nos. 6177, 6171, 6182).

♂ ad.: "Iris dark brown; bill Chinese red; feet cherry red."

15. *Phlegoenas beccarii admiralitatis* subsp. nov.

Cf. *Nov. Zool.* 1905, p. 246.

Compared with a skin of a male from New Hanover, and a male and two females from Dampier Island—which we take to be like typical *johannae*—this new form differs as follows: ♂. Top of head to nape uniform slate grey, without a bronzy greenish patch on the occiput; throat and chest-patch darker, more greyish. ♀. Throat and chest ashy grey, instead of the throat being whitish and the foreneck to the chest greyish cinnamon buff; abdomen brown instead of cinnamon buff. The males of *P. b. admiralitatis* differ from those of *P. b. intermedia* in the colour of the abdomen, which is cinnamon rufous-brown, not purplish bronze-brown as in the latter. Wing of *P. b. admiralitatis*: ♂ 105, 109, ♀ 104 mm.

2 ♂♂ ad. Manus, 1 ♀ ad. Manus, September and October 1913 (Nos. 6130, 6185, 6243).

♂ ♀: "Iris dark brown; bill black; feet dark purplish red."

The female differs from the male in wanting the violet-purple patch on the upper wing-coverts, in having the whole throat dark ashy grey like the crown, the back, rump, and upper tail-coverts a shade more greenish, and in being slightly smaller. Wing of males 105 and 110, of female 103 mm.

16. *Myristicivora subflavescens* (Finsch).

Carpophaga subflavescens Finsch, *Ibis* 1886. p. 2 ("Extreme north corner of New Ireland").

♂ ad. Manus, 11. ix. 1913 (No. 6038).

"Iris dark brown; bill slaty blue; feet slaty blue and light horn."

17. *Carpophaga rhodinolaema* ScL.

(Cf. *Nov. Zool.* xxi. p. 209.)

Carpophaga rhodinolaema ScLATER, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1877. p. 555 ("Hab. Ins. Admiralitatis").

10 ♂ ♀ ad. Manus, 9. viii.—1. x. 1913 (Nos. 5954, 6029, 6047, 6079, 6091, 6112, 6148, 6150, 6152, 6190).

"Iris dark red; bill slaty blue; feet purplish red."

All these specimens are typical *rhodinolaema*, like those from Rook Island (cf. *Nov. Zool.* xxi., ante p. 209). We find that also the birds recorded by us from St. Aignan and from the Egum group as *C. van-wycki* should be *rhodinolaema*.

These two forms are very similar to each other, and we find that certain specimens are not easy to place.

According to Friedrich Dahl (*Mitt. Zool. Samml. Berlin* i. 3, pp. 155, 156, 1899), *C. van-wycki* is entirely an inhabitant of small uninhabited coral islands with high trees, while *C. rhodinolaema* lives on the large islands of New Ireland and New Britain. Dr. Dahl thinks that some of the records may be incorrect, and his view is very likely quite correct. The distribution of the two supposed species, *C. rhodinolaema* and *van-wycki*, is, nevertheless, peculiar and little known. We have *C. rhodinolaema* from: Admiralty Islands, New Ireland, New Britain, Rook Island, St. Aignan, Egum! We have, however, also a skin collected by C. Wahnes from Massawa, where, according to Dahl, only *van-wycki* should occur, which we cannot separate from *rhodinolaema*!

On the other hand we have *C. van-wycki* from Duke of York Island and "New Ireland," though the latter statement is most likely incorrect. We have also a skin labelled by Kubary as coming from Konstantinshafen! This is the skin of a young bird, and appears to be a young *rhodinolaema*!

18. *Ptilinopus solomonensis johannis* Schl.

Ptilinopus johannis Selater, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London* 1877, p. 556 (Admiralty Islands).

♂ ♀ Manus, 28. ix., 9. x. 1913 (Nos. 6175, 6232).

19. *Ptilinopus superbus* (Temm.).

Columba superba Temminck, in Knip, *Pigeons* p. 75. pl. 33 (1811—"O-taiti." Patria substituta: Halmahera; cf. *Nov. Zool.* xxi. p. 45).

7 ♂♂ 1 ♀ Manus, September and October 1913 (Nos. 6063, 6065, 6124, 6176, 6181, 6183, 6207, 6225).

20. *Accipiter hiogaster dampieri* (Gurn.).

Urospizias dampieri Gurney, *Ibis* 1882, p. 453 (New Britain).

2 ♂♂ ad. (Nos. 6009, 6261), 1 ♀ ad. (No. 6140), 1 ♂ juv. (No. 6215), 1 ♀ juv. (No. 6046), Manus, September 1913.

Iris ♂ ad. "dark reddish brown," ♀ ad. "dark brown," ♀ juv. "dark red," ♂ juv. "dark brown."

These birds—hitherto unknown on Admiralty Islands—appear to be typical *A. hiogaster dampieri*. The wings of adult males measure 204 and 211 mm., that of the adult female 237 mm. These measurements agree with those given by Gurney for specimens from New Britain, and with our examples from New Hanover and Blanche Bay—viz. ♀ 231–239, ♂ about 210 mm.—while those given by Reichenow appear to be incorrect, being too small, as shown by a female received in exchange from the Berlin Museum. (This may be due to a different way of measuring, as we stretch the wing to its full length, while Reichenow only gently presses it on to the rule, so that the measures must vary, because any gentle pressure must vary, while by stretching a wing to its greatest possible length an unvarying measure can be obtained.)

Antea, p. 209, we have also recorded the hawk from Rook Island as "*Accipiter etorques dampieri*." This is, as we see now, not quite correct. Apart from the fact that *etorques* and *hiogaster* are forms or links of the same chain, and *hiogaster* is the oldest name,* the two males from Rook Island are smaller altogether, their wings measuring only 192 and 195 mm. We are therefore obliged to separate the Rook Island form and name it

Accipiter hiogaster rooki subsp. nov.

Type ♂ No. 5893, Rook Island 2. viii. 1913, in Tring Museum.

(The bird described by Madarász as *Astur novae-guineae* (*Orn. Monatsber.* 1899, p. 27, *Termesz. Füzet.* 1899, p. 420, pl. xvi) undoubtedly belongs to this group, and is apparently a typical *A. hiogaster etorques*.)

* Cf. *Nov. Zool.*, antea, p. 73.

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

Cf. anteà, p. 210.

♀ ad., ♀ juv. Manus, 17. ix., 7. x. 1903 (Nos. 6090, 6219).

22. *Ninox meeki* Rothsch. & Hart.

Ninox meeki Rothschild and Hartert, *Bull. B.O. Club* xxxiii, p. 105 (Feb. 1914—Manus, Admiralty Islands).

Adult male: Upperside rufous-brown, scapulars, lowest rump-feathers, and upper tail-coverts with narrow white bars. Outer webs of primaries brown with light rufous bars, sometimes indistinct, inner webs dark brown, with or without faintly or more distinctly indicated bars; secondaries similar, but always with very conspicuous wide yellowish-buff bars on the inner webs. Upper wing-coverts like the back, the median and greater ones lighter and with white cross-bars, sometimes wider and more numerous than in other specimens. Rectrices dark brown, with six or seven pale cross-bars and similar tips. Throat pale tawny-ochraceous with rufous-brown stripes, rest of underside white with rufous-brown or rufous stripes, and generally also with rufous edges to the feathers. Bristles over nostrils black, whitish towards base. Ear-coverts dark brown with a greyish tinge. Under wing-coverts white or rusty-buff with rufous-brown spots. Tarsus and toes with numerous bristles only. "Iris pale yellow; bill slaty blue, tip light horn-colour, nearly yellow; feet creamy yellow." Culmen from cere 17-19, wing 230-240, tail 120-130, tarsus about 37 mm.

Adult female: Like the male, but head, and especially nape, more or less frequently barred and spotted with buff. Wing 220-230 mm.

Two of the females have the throats almost white, the rufous streaks narrower than in most of the other specimens, the white bars on the wing-coverts heavier, the rump more barred with white (almost all over the back), and the bars on the rectrices rather wider and lighter. They are evidently younger individuals.

Mr. Meek sent us nine specimens, collected near Manus from September 6 to October 2 (Nos. 5971, 5985, 6078, 6172, 6194, 6195, 6196, 6198, 6201).

23. *Micropsitta meeki* Roths. & Hart.

In *Bull. B.O. Club* xxxiii, p. 107 we described this perfectly distinct little parrot as follows:

"♂ ♀ ad. Crown and sides of head greyish brown with pale brown edges to the feathers; an indistinct dull yellow superciliary line; rest of upperside green with narrow blackish edges to some of the feathers; wing-coverts with bases and basal median line, which is more or less visible, black. Primaries blackish brown with narrow green outer and wider dull yellowish inner edges, secondaries with most of the outer webs green. Lateral rectrices black at base, distal half of outer webs green and distal third of inner webs bright yellow, fourth and fifth pairs black, with the tip and base of the outer web green, middle pair entirely bluish-green with black shafts. Sides of the neck and underside yellow, with narrow blackish fringes to the feathers, flanks green, under tail-coverts bright yellow. Under wing-coverts dull yellow, greyish brown at base. Bill light horn-colour, iris dull brownish yellow or brownish red; feet pale flesh-

colour. Culmen from cere 9-10, wing 5-961.5, tail to end of spines 25.5-27.5, hind toe without claw 15 mm."

Mr. Meek's party collected ten males and females, evidently all adult birds, at Manus from September 5 to 27 (Nos. 5965, 6023, 6125, 6126, 6155, 6156, 6157, 6169, 6170).

24. *Trichoglossus haematodus flavicans* Cab. & Rehw.

Trichoglossus flavicans Cabanis and Reichenow, *Journ. f. Orn.* 1876, p. 324 (New Hanover).

11 ♂ ♀ ad. Manus, September and October 1913 (Nos. 5998, 6154, 6199, 6206, 6209, 6218, 6221, 6222, 6223, 6226, 6233). "Iris bright red (once yellowish red). Bill: base red, tip yellow. Feet a sky-blue."

This beautiful parrakeet differs from *T. h. massena* and *T. h. intermedius* in having the inner webs of the outer rectrices almost entirely yellow, only a line near the shaft, sharply divided, remaining green. The occiput is bright brownish purple. Size much larger! The upperside is not always yellow! While in some it is almost golden yellow, when held away from the light, in other skins it is quite as grass-green as in *T. h. massena* and other forms. Neither sex nor age appears to be responsible for this dichromatism. The feathers of the upper back are greyish at base, green at their tips, red in the middle. So much red is never seen in *T. h. massena*, where it is often quite absent, nor in *T. h. intermedius*, where it is generally a little more developed. *T. h. nigrogularis* has generally as much yellow on the rectrices and as much red on the upper back, but it differs from *T. h. flavicans* in the blue-black, not purple-black throat, wider black edges to the feathers of the breast, and in the colour of the occiput. The peculiar golden yellow variety, moreover, appears to exist only in *T. h. flavicans*.

The wings of our *T. h. flavicans* measure as follows:

New Hanover: 148 mm.

Manus: 146, 148, 149, 153, 155, 149, 150, 148, 149, 150 mm.

25. *Electus pectoralis solomonensis* Rothsch. & Hart.

Cf. *Nov. Zool.* 1901, p. 82, anteà, p. 210.

4 ♂ ♂, 4 ♀ ♀ ad. Manus, September and October 1914 (Nos. 6031, 6032, 6037, 6093, 6149, 6186, 6208, 6217).

Wings of the males 241, 255, 254, 240, females 235, 239, 240, 230 mm. (See anteà, p. 211.)

26. *Cuculus optatus* Gould.

Cuculus optatus Gould, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, Part xiii, 1845, p. 18 (1845—"Port Essington, Australia").

2 ♂ ♂ ad. Manus, 15., 17. ix. 1913 (Nos. 6071, 6082).

Wings 208 and 213 mm.

27. *Cacomantis blandus* sp. nov.

♂ ♀ ad. Sides of head and neck, top of head and hind-neck to beginning of back ashy grey, rump and upper tail-coverts slaty-grey, sometimes tinged or glossed with bronze; scapulars, upper wing-coverts and middle of back glossy

bronze-brown. Quills with the usual whitish basal bar. Rectrices slaty blue-black, tipped with white and with white spots or short bars on the inner and sometimes also on the outer edges; these white markings are generally short and reach not even to the middle of the outer webs, but occasionally right across to the shaft! Throat and crop pale ashy grey, often more or less mixed with pale cinnamon-rufous, rest of underside, including under tail-coverts, pale cinnamon-rufous; under wing-coverts lighter. Edge of wing at base of primaries forming a conspicuous white patch. Wing 109–113 mm. In younger birds the cross-bars on the outermost pair of rectrices reach to the shaft and are wider.

Hab. Admiralty Island. Type ♂ ad. Manus, 16. ix. 1913 (No. 6072).

This series is remarkably constant. The new form is apparently nearest to *C. assimilis* (Gray) from New Guinea and neighbouring islands to Bismarck Archipelago, but differs from the latter in its much smaller size, more greyish crown, slaty-grey (not bronzy!) upper tail-coverts, and rufescent, evidently never greyish underside. It differs from *C. sepulcralis sepulcralis* (S. Müller) by its paler upperside, more extended grey on throat, brighter abdomen and lesser size. From *C. merulinus* the new form is distinguished by the shortness of the cross-bars on the outer rectrices, which only in one of our adult specimens extend to the shaft, and generally darker upperside.

Stresemann (*Nov. Zool.* xix. p. 332) has given a useful review of the forms of *C. merulinus* and *C. sepulcralis*, but after comparison with our series and the specific characters as set forth by Stresemann, we find it difficult to say to which of the two species our new form should belong, though we have no doubt that it is the representative on the Admiralty Islands of *C. assimilis*, *C. websteri*, *C. aeruginosus*, etc., and therefore it should be *C. sepulcralis blandus*.

In Mr. Stresemann's review we miss the statement that his *C. sepulcralis sepulcralis* (undoubtedly, in our opinion, correctly called by this name) is the *C. threnodes* of various publications on birds in the Tring Museum, though not of Cabanis and Heine.

Meek's collectors brought together eight adult males and females and two young of *C. blandus*, collected near Manus in the months of September and October (Nos. 5976, 5977, 5987, 5988, 5989, 6072, 6081, 6137, 6144, 6163).

"Iris brown; feet yellow and black or dull yellow and brown; bill black, base of lower pale."

28. *Tyto manusi* sp. nov.

Differs from the Australian forms of *Tyto novaehollandiae*, of which it will probably have to be classed as a subspecies, when all these forms are sufficiently reviewed, in its smaller size. The rufescent bars on the tail are narrow and ill-defined. Coloration dark, underside rufescent brownish-buff with rather large blackish spots. Under wing-coverts white, yellowish brown near the bend of the wing, and with similar large spots.

Wing 275, tail 122, tarsus about 78, culmen 41 mm.

"Iris dark brown; bill flesh-colour; feet greyish brown."

Unfortunately only one single male from Manus, 10. x. 1913 (No. 6234).

This form appears to be nearest to *T. cayelii* (Hart.) from Buru, but the tail, instead of being yellowish brown with seven sharply defined black bars, which are narrower than the brown portions, is black with narrow, ill-defined, irregular yellow-brown bars. Size like that of *T. cayelii*. Evidently quite different from *T. aurantia*

(Salvad.), though of the latter we have no specimens to compare. Cf. Gurney, *Ibis*, 1882, p. 132, pl. II.

29. *Alcedo ispida pelagica* Stres.

Alcedo ispida pelagica Stresemann, *Nov. Zool.* xx. p. 316 (Eastern New Guinea [Collingwood and Milne Bay], d'Entrecasteaux and Louisiade Island, type St. Aignan).

2 ♂♂ ad., 2 ♀♀ ad., ♂♀ juv. Manus, September and October 1913 (Nos. 6018 and 6162, 6231 and 6249, 6113 and 6202).

In the males the entire bill is black, in the females the base of the lower mandible is "dull burnt red." The quite young female has the bill black with a tiny whitish tip.

Mr. Stresemann has separated this eastern race as above. Our specimens have the wings 71-72.9 mm., while Stresemann gives 66-72, but we measure some of them up to 72.5 mm. This form is ill-defined, single specimens cannot be recognised; at the same time there is no doubt that the majority of the examples from the countries named are very small; probably this small form will also be found to inhabit parts of Kaiser-Wilhelms-Land, and those from New Britain and New Ireland require further study! Stresemann (*loc.*) quotes the wings from the latter islands as 69-73, and in one case, from a measurement by Meyer and Wiglesworth, 74 mm., which is rather too much for his *A. i. pelagica*. A good series from the Bismarck Archipelago is unfortunately not to hand.

30. *Ceyx dispar* Rothsch. & Hart.

Ceyx dispar, *Bull. B. O. Club* xxxiii. p. 106 (1914).

♂ ad. Lores bright rufous, feathers of crown black with ante-apical glossy blue tips, those of nape and ear-coverts glossy blue with black bases; upper wing-coverts blue with glossy spots, black at base; malar line black; a pale orange-rufous patch behind the ear-coverts; back, rump, and upper tail-coverts pale glossy azure-blue. Throat very pale orange-yellow, rest of underside bright orange-rufous.

"Iris dark brown; bill and feet chinese-red."

♀ ad. Like male, but top of head, nape and sides of head orange-rufous; a blue-black stripe with glossy streaks along the ear-coverts and sides of neck; another line of dark blue feathers with ante-apical violet-blue spots and of varying width along forehead, crown and nape.

Wing in both sexes 63-63, once (♀) 67, tail 26-27.5, tarsus 10, bill 41-44 mm.

Type ♂ ad. No. 5979, Manus, 6. ix. 1913.

Meek's collectors sent nine adult males (Nos. 5997, 5978, 5979, 6010, 6011, 6044, 6096, 6188), five adult females (Nos. 6008, 6034, 6102, 6187), and one young male (No. 6160), all from Manus, shot in the months of September and October. The young male is like the adult males, except that the bill is shorter and not of such a pure and bright red, but tinged with brown, and the colours of the back and abdomen are slightly duller.

(*Halcyon admirabilitatis* Sharpe was unfortunately not met with. Probably it inhabits the mangrove swamps of some of the outlying small islands or reefs, and is not found in the neighbourhood of Manus. No *Tanysepta* seems to occur on the Admiralty group of islands.)

31. *Merops ornatus* Lath.

Merops ornatus Latham, *Ind. Orn. Suppl.* p. xxxv (1801—"Nova Hollandia").

♀ ad. Manus, 7. ix. 1913 (No. 5992).

This specimen is in perfect plumage, just after its moult. No feathers are moulting, but one of the elongated central rectrices is missing.

Cf. Stresemann, *Nov. Zool.* xxi. pp. 105-109.

32. *Hemiproone mystacea mystacea* (Less.)

(*Macropteryx mystacea mystacea* auct.)

Cypselus mystaceus Lesson, *Voy. Coqu.*, *Zool.* i. p. 647 (1825—New Guinea).

♂ ♀ ad. Manus, 8., 9. x. 1913 (Nos. 6224, 6228).

These two specimens belong **most probably** to *H. m. mystacea*. The wings of the male are damaged at the tip; those of the female measure 224 and 225 mm., measurements which belong to either *H. m. mystacea* from Papua, Waigiu and Batanta (225-243), or to *H. m. confirmata* from the Moluccan Islands (210-232 mm.).

The abdomen appears to have rather little white in the two skins from Manus, but more material must be examined to be certain of the constancy of this very slight difference. (Cf. Stresemann, *Nov. Zool.* xxi. pp. 110, 111.)

33. *Collocalia leucopygia leucopygia* Wall.

Collocalia leucopygia Wallace, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1863, p. 384 (New Caledonia).

♀ ad. Manus, 29. ix. 1913 (No. 6178).

"Iris dark brown; bill black; feet dull black."

This specimen agrees well with our three examples from Buru, which appear to be quite like the typical examples from New Caledonia. (Cf. *Nov. Zool.* xxi. p. 114.) The wing of the Manus specimen measures 106.5 mm.

34. *Collocalia esculenta stresemanni* subsp. nov.

[*Hirundo esculenta* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* ed. x., i., p. 191 (1758—"China," errore, patria substituta Amboina; cf. Oberholser, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Philadelphia* lviii. p. 210, 1906).]

Similar to *C. esculenta esculenta*, but the feathers of the rump with wide white borders all round, some white on both webs except for a metallic blackish green spot at the tip of the inner web, and some of the smaller quite lateral ones entirely white. The outermost pair of rectrices have long narrow white lines along the basal portion of the shaft, while on the following **two** pairs they extend farther along. The metallic greenish colours of the upperside are perhaps not quite as bright, and not mixed with steel-blue, as in most specimens of *C. esculenta esculenta*, but more as in *C. e. neglecta*, though it is of course doubtful if this is of any importance, as only one specimen is to hand. The wing measures about 99 mm. The tarsus is entirely bare of feathers as in *C. e. esculenta*, while in *C. e. neglecta* a few single feathers are to be seen on the basal portion of the tarsus.

Only a single male from Manus, 13. ix. 1913 (No. 6051). Iris dark brown; bill black; feet flesh-colour.

[Since the appearance of my treatment of the genus *Collocalia* in *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xvi. 1892, p. 406, and *Tierreich*, Lief. i. 1897, two important articles on these Swiftlets have appeared: first and foremost Oberholser's Monograph

of the genus *Collocalia* in the *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences Philadelphia*, vol. lviii. p. 177, 1906; and the notes on the forms of *C. linchi* and *C. francica* in *Nov. Zool.* xix. 1912, pp. 347, 349, and xxi. 1914, pp. 114, 115, by Erwin Stresemann. In his first article Mr. Stresemann has honoured Mr. Oberholser by describing a *C. linchi oberholseri*, and we have here dedicated the most interesting form of *esculenta* from Admiralty Island to our friend Stresemann. I have no doubt that both *stresemanni* and *neglecta* must be looked upon as forms of *esculenta*, and that Oberholser's contrary view (*t.c.* p. 211) is merely due to the very small series which he appears to have examined. In fact, *C. e. neglecta* is sometimes not easy to distinguish from *C. e. esculenta*, and I refer to my remarks in *Nov. Zool.* vi. p. 268, v. p. 460, and vii. p. 18. That the tarsus, and in many specimens also the hind-toe is scantily feathered, appears not to have been noticed or pointed out before; and even Oberholser, who (*t.c.*, pp. 178, 179, 182) laid so much stress upon this character that he considered the neglecting of it as having caused much confusion, and even erected a new "subgenus" which he called "*Aerodramus*" (without using this name), appears to have overlooked it. For me this slight difference is no hindrance for treating these forms as subspecies, and it shows the fallacy of the subgenus "*Aerodramus*," especially as *C. e. stresemanni* takes, in a way, an intermediate position.—E. H.]

35. *Pitta superba* Rothsch. & Hart.

Pitta superba Rothschild and Hartert, *Bull. B.O. Club* xxxiii. p. 106 (Febr. 1914—Manus).

♂ ad. Glossy black, lower back, rump and upper tail-coverts without gloss. Quills and primary coverts black, the inner primaries and all the secondaries with wide dull green edges to the distal ends of the outer webs. All upper wing-coverts, when held between the eye and the light, of a light glossy blue, when held away from the light pale bluish green, black at the utmost base, and with a dull dark green band between the black of the base and the glossy tip. Middle of abdomen, flanks and under tail-coverts bright red. Tail and under wing-coverts black. Bill black; iris dark brown; feet and legs flesh-colour. Wing 128–134, tail 48–51, tarsus 51–54, culmen 31–33 mm.

♀ ad. Like the male, but smaller; the red of the abdomen and the glossy upper wing-coverts generally a little less bright; wings 122–126, tail 46–48, tarsus 51–52, culmen 30–32 mm.

The young birds are dull black, without gloss, the red of the abdomen and under tail-coverts is of a dull pink, the upper wing-coverts have very little gloss, the utmost tip of the beak is orange-red.

Meek's collectors sent sixteen adult males (Nos. 6030, 6042, 6070, 6075, 6076, 6089, 6097, 6098, 6103, 6138, 6167, 6174, 6180, 6244, 6250), eleven adult females (Nos. 6074, 6077, 6085, 6088, 6089, 6099, 6100, 6131, 6151, 6179, 6238), and two young ones (Nos. 6059 ♂, 6069 ♀).

A huge nest with two eggs was found on October 11. The nest is a big oval structure with large lateral entrance, composed of fibres and rootlets with moss and decayed leaves. The inner lining consists of nothing but fibres and rootlets. The opening measures about 11 by 7 cm. The two eggs are typical *Pitta*-eggs. Their colour is white and they are marked with small roundish purplish brown-black spots and a few larger ones, also mostly round, of the same colour, and with underlying mauve-grey roundish spots, the markings being mostly round the

thick end. The eggs are fairly glossy, with deep pores, and measure 34.4×26.7 and 34×25.6 mm.

36. *Monarcha chalybeocephalus chalybeocephalus* (Garn.)

Muscicapa chalybeocephalus, Garnier, *Voy. Coquille, Zool.*, Atlas, pl. xv. fig. 1 (♀), i. 2. p. 589 (1826-1828—New Ireland).

4 ♂♂ ad. (Nos. 6033, 6004, 6006, 6007); 2 ♂♂ juv. (Nos. 5996, 6025); 3 ♀♀ (Nos. 5969, 5975, 6035), Manus, September and October, 1913.

37. *Monarcha infelix* Scf.

Monarcha infelix Scfater, *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1877, p. 552 (Admiralty Islands); *Voy. Challenger, Rep. Birds*, pl. vii.

6 ♂♂ (Nos. 5973, 6014, 6039, 6049, 6054, 6055); 4 ♀♀ (Nos. 5967, 5968, 5972, 6013).

“Iris dark brown; bill slaty blue with black tip; feet slaty blue.”

There is no difference between the sexes, except in size. The wings of the males measure 82.5–87, those of the females 79–81 mm.

38. *Rhipidura setosa niveiventris* Rothsch. & Hart.

Rhipidura setosa niveiventris Rothschild and Hartert, *Bull. B.O. Club* xxxiii. p. 109 (1914—Manus, Admiralty Islands).

Differs from the other forms of *Rh. setosa* in its snow-white abdomen. In most of the specimens the slaty-grey breast-band is quite uniform, without any whitish spots, but in three examples some faint whitish spots or traces of them are visible.

The entire crown of the head is black, merging into the slate grey of the back. Only the greater upper wing-coverts have a very narrow outer edge of white, which is absent in worn specimens. Wings 84–91.5 mm., evidently the smaller specimens being females, though the sex-marks on the labels do not all bear this out. In the original description the measures of the wings were given as 81–91.5, but the smaller measure is incorrect, in so far as this small bird is a quite young bird, with a duller crown and duller colours everywhere, whitish margins to the median and greater upper wing-coverts, pale brownish buff margins to the feathers of the back.

6 ♂♂ (Nos. 5994, 6022, 6052, 6053, 6068, 6095); 2 ♀♀ (Nos. 5963, 6118); 1 young male (No. 6005).

“Iris dark brown; bill and feet black.”

39. *Rhipidura semirubra* Scf.

Rhipidura semirubra Scfater, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 1877, p. 552; *Voy. Challenger, Rep., Birds* pl. vii. (Admiralty Islands).

This *Rhipidura* differs from the other forms of this group chiefly by its uniform bright cinnamon-red upperside, including the forehead.

We have received ten males and females, collected at Manus in the months of September and October (Nos. 6048, 6056, 6086, 6114, 6115, 6116, 6117, 6121, 6135, 6136).

"Iris dark brown; bill black, whitish at base of lower mandible; feet dull black."

Wings of males 67.5-71, once 75.5; of the three females 64.5-67 mm.

40. *Graucalus papuensis ingens* Rothsch. & Hart.

Graucalus papuensis ingens Rothschild and Hartert, *Bull. B.O. Club* xxxiii. p. 107 (1914—Manus, Admiralty Islands).

"Nearest to *G. p. sclateri* from New Britain and the neighbouring islands, but larger, and differing from all the forms of *G. papuensis* in having the shafts of the tail-feathers seen from below blackish, either entirely or for the greater part of their length, and not whitish throughout.

"Wing ♂ 167-170, ♀ 162-170.5; tail 119-128; culmen 35-36 mm."

As in the other forms of *G. papuensis* the male has, of course, the lores and forehead black, while they are slate-grey in the females.

We have received two males (Nos. 6012, 6117) and seven females (Nos. 6016, 6019, 6043, 6145, 6189, 6216, 6220).

The iris is dark brown, bill and feet black.

41. *Edolisoma amboinense admiralitatis* Rothsch. & Hart.

Edolisoma amboinense admiralitatis Rothschild and Hartert, *Bull. B.O. Club*, xxxiii. p. 108 (1914—Manus, Admiralty Islands).

♂ ad. Nearest to *E. a. rooki* (*Bull. B.O. Club* xxxiii. p. 107 and *Nov. Zool.* xxi. p. 215), but smaller, and with the edges of the greater upper wing-coverts and secondaries whitish, not blue-grey.

Wing 104-110 mm.

♀ ad. Like that of *E. a. rooki*, but more reddish underneath, and with the whitish streaks on the ear-coverts less pronounced. Throat uniform buff or pale rufous or with a few blackish dots only, not barred as in most females of *E. a. grayi* and *E. a. rooki*.

Wing 103-105 mm.

4 ♂♂ ad. (Nos. 5962, 6123, 6128, 6192); 2 ♂♂ juv. (Nos. 6108, 6211); 4 ♀♀ (Nos. 6107, 6191, 6205, 6212).

Iris dark brown, bill and feet black in both sexes.

42. *Pachycephala pectoralis goodsoni* subsp. nov.

6 ♂♂ ad. (Nos. 5958, 5970, 5974, 5980, 5981, 5982, 5983); 2 ♂♂ juv. (Nos. 5961, 6015); 3 ♀♀ (Nos. 5959, 5964, 6036), Manus, September and October 1913.

The adult males are more brilliant golden yellow underneath than two males from Rook Island (*antea*, p. 216), and two others from New Hanover, and the bills are rather longer, in fact distinctly larger than in the two males from Rook Island, though not more so than in the New Hanover ones. Moreover the females have the throat almost pure white, not brownish buff! Wings 88-94 mm. Named after Mr. Arthur Goodson.

In *Nov. Zool.* p. 216 we have used binomial nomenclature for *P. finschi*, because it appeared from the literature that *P. finschi* and *dahli* occurred in the

same places ; this is, however, not likely to be the case, *dahli* being, apparently, a bird of the small outlying islets, and if the two are ever found in the same place, one should be of exceptional occurrence, having accidentally strayed into the area of the other.

The name *pectoralis* will have to be used as the specific name for the chain of yellow "Thickheads" which concerns us at this moment, as, unfortunately, according to the Rules of Nomenclature, as they stand at present, the "*Turdus gutturalis*" of Latham (1801) was preoccupied by a "*Turdus gutturalis*" of Müller (1776). (See Mathews, *List B. Australia*, 1913, pp. 177, 178).

43. *Aplonis metallicus purpureiceps* (Salvad.).

Calornis purpureiceps Salvadori, *Atti R. Accad. Sci. Torino*, xiii. p. 535 (1878—Admiralty Islands) ; Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xiii. p. 142.

Lamprocorax metallicus purpureiceps Stresemann, *Nov. Zool.* xix. p. 312.

Differs from *L. m. metallicus* and its allies by the shorter spangles on the lower throat, and the tail is shorter. The crown is always purple, but there is a sharply defined metallic green patch above the eye ; the whole back is green, without the purple patch on the back, though the latter is slightly indicated in one of the specimens. Under the eye is a dark purple patch, covering the upper portion of the ear-coverts, the tips of which are green. The throat is green, varied with purple, the bases of the feathers being purple, the elongated tips green, but on the hackles, just below the throat, the tips are also purple.

Wing in males 108–111, in females 106 ; tail in males 83–91, in females 74–72 mm.

6 ♂♂ ad. (Nos. 5993, 6024, 6050, 6067, 6080, 6110) ; 4 ♀♀ ad. (Nos. 6083, 6109, 6120, 6134) ; 1 ♂ juv. (No. 6084), Manus, September and October 1913.

"Iris crimson in old, reddish yellow in young bird ; bill and feet black."

44. *Philemon albitorques* ScL.

Philemon albitorques Sclater, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 1877. p. 553 ; *Voy. Challenger, Zool.*, Birds. p. 28. pl. viii. (Admiralty Islands).

Meek's party collected five males and five females of this distinct form of *Philemon*, all at Manus, in September and October 1913. (Males Nos. 6021, 6026, 6058, 6062, 6129, females Nos. 6020, 6027, 6061, 6111, 6147.)

"Iris dark brown ; bill black ; feet slaty blue."

Wing of males 187–193, of females 161–182 mm.

45. *Cinnyris jugularis flavigastra* (Gould).

Nectarinia flavigastra Gould, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 1843. p. 104 (New Ireland !).

Cinnyris frenata flava Heinroth, *Journ. f. Orn.* 1903. p. 85 (New Britain).

Eleven years ago (*Nov. Zool.* p. 1903, p. 213) we were of opinion that the forms from the western and eastern portions of the Papuan continent and islands were inseparable. Having re-examined our largely increased series, we must admit that we were in error. In fact, the more eastern race is distinctly more yellowish on the upperside than the western one. The brighter eastern race ranges from the Solomon Islands to the Bismarck Archipelago (as far as the Admiralty Islands), and the D'Entrecasteaux group, but also the birds from British New Guinea, the

Kumuri and Upper Aroa Rivers, appear to belong to the eastern race, while the birds from German New Guinea (Simbang, Stephansort, Friedrich Wilhelmshafen) belong to the darker-backed western form, which ranges also to the Aru Islands and west, by way of some of the Moluccan Islands, to the Sula group, east of Celebes.

Mr. Arthur Goodson, of the Tring Museum, has pointed out to us that the name "*C. flava*" is considerably antedated by Gould's *flavigastra*, as above.

We have received 7 ♂♂ (Nos. 5947, 5995, 6045, 6105, 6119, 6143, 6166), and 5 ♀♀ (Nos. 6104, 6106, 6142, 6158, 6168), from Manus, collected in the months of September and October.

46. *Zosterops admiralitatis* Rothsch. & Hart.

Zosterops admiralitatis Rothschild and Hartert, *Bull. B. O. Club* xxxiii. p. 108 (1914—Manus).

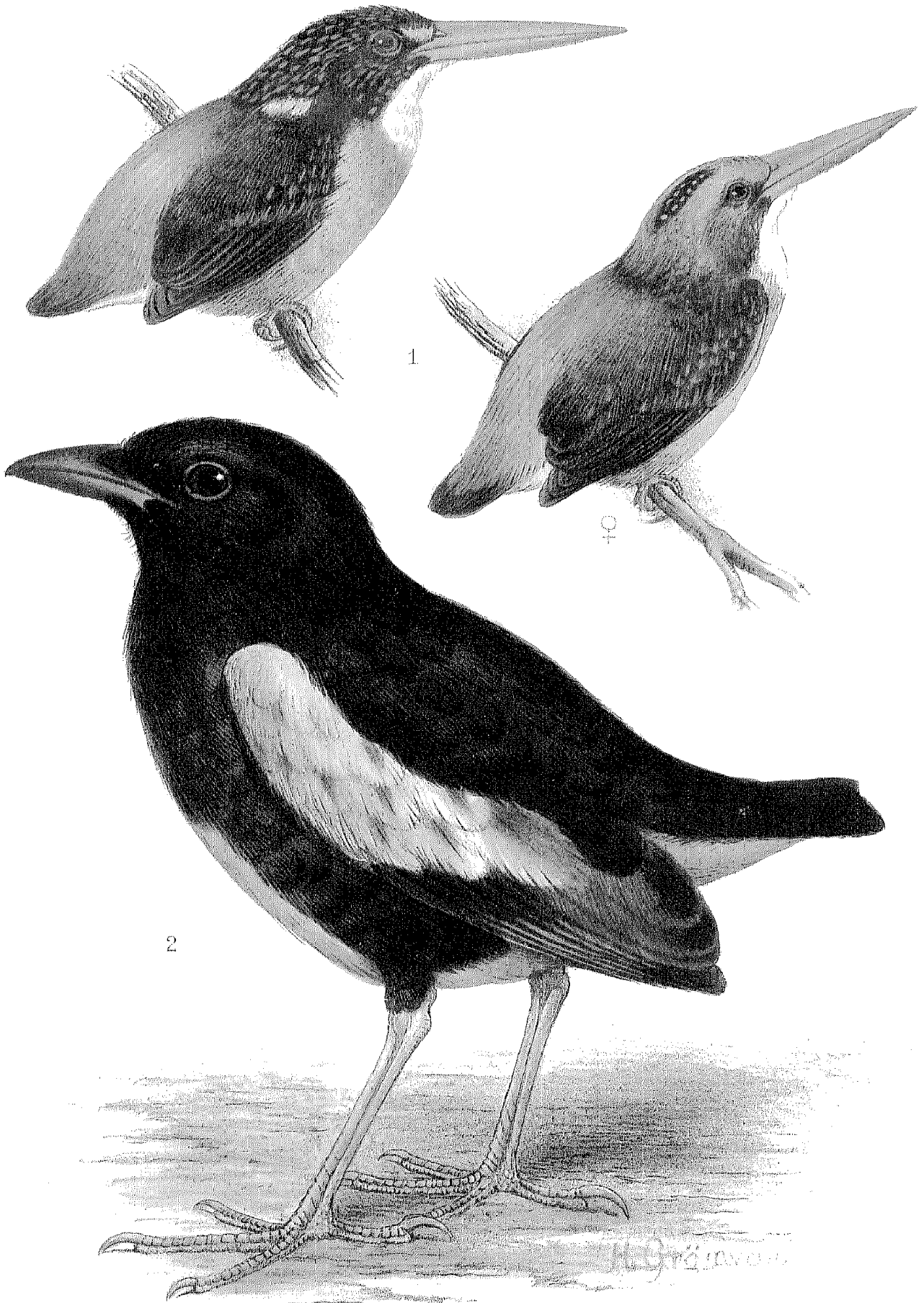
♂♀ ad. "Top and sides of head brownish-black, round the eye a white ring, interrupted in front; rest of the upperside yellowish green, passing into greenish yellow on the rump and upper tail-coverts. Quills brownish black, all except the first, which is entirely black, and the last ones, which are like the back, edged on the outer web with greenish yellow, on the inner one with yellowish white. Tail brownish black. Throat varying from yellowish olive to dirty yellow, jugulum and breast yellow, washed with olivaceous green; abdomen and under tail-coverts bright yellow; under wing-coverts yellowish white.

"Wings 54–57 mm.

"Iris reddish brown; bill black, slate-blue at base; feet slaty blue."

We have used a binomial appellation for this new form, though there is hardly any doubt that it will eventually be treated as a subspecies of *Z. fuscicapilla*, like *hypoxantha*; but the time has not come to nicely group the many forms of the genus *Zosterops* into species and subspecies, and we therefore refrain, for the time being, from using trinomials for the "white-eyes." *Z. admiralitatis* differs from *Z. fuscicapilla* (Arfak) in its bright yellow abdomen, less uniform throat, and brighter rump and upper tail-coverts. From *Z. hypoxantha* (New Britain) it differs chiefly in the colour of the throat, which is golden yellow in the latter.

Meek's collectors sent twelve specimens from Manus, collected in the months of September and October (Nos. 5960, 5984, 6057, 6060, 6122, 6132, 6133, 6141, 6146, 6159, 6164, 6165).



H. Grünvold del. et lith.

West, Newman imp.

1. CEYX DISPAR ♂ & ♀ $\frac{4}{5}$. 2. PITTA SUPERBA $\frac{4}{5}$.