

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 149

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

Nov. 12, 1924

59.82(96)

BIRDS COLLECTED DURING THE WHITNEY SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION. III.

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It has been necessary to depart from the systematic sequence of the two preceding papers (Amer. Mus. Novit., Nos. 115 and 124) in order to describe the following species of kingfisher before publication of a colored plate of the bird in 'Natural History.'

Todirhamphus gertrudæ, new species

ADULT (sexes alike).—Pileum and hind neck cinnamon-buff, verging toward whitish on the forehead; an irregular crown-patch of dark chessylite blue; scapulars, tertials, and inner secondaries, Jouvence blue; rump China blue, flanked by, and in some specimens mingled with, cinnamon-buff feathers which enter also into the upper tail coverts; lesser and middle wing coverts Blanc's blue, the feathers faintly edged with China blue; tips and inner webs of primaries and secondaries, dull black; greater wing coverts, outer webs of primaries and secondaries, and dorsal surface of rectrices, dusky greenish blue, the proximal part of the outer borders of these secondaries fringed with buffy white; ventral surface of rectrices dull black, the outermost pair tipped with white; a narrow ring around the eye, and a broad, irregular infraorbital stripe which extends from the lores across the malar region, chessylite blue; spot on lower eyelid, and the under surface of the body, including the axillaries, white, a cinnamon-buff wash of varying intensity extending across the breast as a broad band and along the sides of the throat and belly. Iris, brown; bill, black, with the proximal and ventral part of the lower mandible fleshy white; feet and legs, purplish black.

TYPE.—No. 190,157, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Niau Island, Tuamotu Group; September 13, 1921; R. H. Beck.

MEASUREMENTS.—Four males: length (skins), 183–191 (187); wing, 87–91 (89.5); tail, 62–68 (65.8); culmen from base, 37–38 (37.5); tarsus, 16–17 (16.3) mm.

Three females: length (skins), 191–196 (193); wing, 88–90 (89); tail, 64–66 (65); culmen from base, 37–38 (37.3); tarsus, 15–16 (15.7) mm.

RANGE.—Known only from Niau Island.

Specimens from Niau Island, Tuamotu Group, September 1921 and August 1922.

This species, apparently the first kingfisher known from the Tuamotus, is unlike any other species of Eastern Polynesia, but its color scheme is somewhat reminiscent of *Sauropatis mediocris* of the Carolines. The new species is named in honor of Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. It will be figured in 'Natural History,' XXIV, 1924, plate facing page 539.

The colors of the dorsal surface have been judged with the specimens and the observer's eye in one plane at right angles to the source of light, for the general hue of this kingfisher varies, according to the angle of refraction, from bright green to rich ultramarine.

Younger examples than the type have large blue crown-patches, which cover the greater part of the pileum, and traces of a dusky bluish nuchal band which crosses the nape from the malar stripes. Another juvenal characteristic is the presence of buffy margins on the whole series of primary and secondary coverts.

Niau Island is about five miles long, with a maximum altitude of twenty-six feet, and a mouthless lagoon. It is well wooded and has considerable undergrowth. The sea is said to have washed over the greater part of the island during hurricanes. At the time of Mr. Beck's first visit, on September 13, 1921, he wrote: "Kingfishers were not uncommon, as several were heard. . . They perch most often in the coconut trees, but three or four were seen low down in the bushes."

During the second visit, on August 16, 1922, Mr. Quayle observed the kingfishers in the streets of the village, and noted that the native name is *Oteuteu*. Careful search revealed no kingfishers on islands adjacent to Niau.