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BIRDS COLLECTED DURING THE WHITNEY  
SOUTH SEA EXPEDITION. XLVIII<sup>1</sup>

NOTES ON THE POLYNESIAN SPECIES OF *APLONIS*<sup>2</sup>

By ERNST MAYR

A revision of the widespread and highly variable genus *Aplonis* is still wanting. Recent years have brought several interesting discoveries, such as the primitive species *santovestris* Harrison and Marshall (1937, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 57, p. 148) on Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, and the realization that "*Macruropsar*" *magnus* is nothing but a specialized *Aplonis mysolensis* (Mayr and de Schauensee, 1939, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 91, p. 33). No complete revision of the genus *Aplonis* will be attempted in the present paper, which is limited in its scope to a description of the Polynesian and Melanesian forms. The method of treatment follows the precedent set in the earlier papers of this series.

*Aplonis cinerascens* Hartlaub and Finsch

*Aplonis cinerascens* HARTLAUB AND FINSCH, 1871, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 29.—Rarotonga Island.

Bill long and curved; general coloration gray-brown; under parts lighter and much more grayish, every feather edged with pale gray, but without whitish shaft streaks; crissum and under tail-coverts whitish; head brownish gray with a slight purplish gloss; feathers of back and particularly of rump margined with gray; wing fuscous brown, inner secondaries with very narrow pale edges; tail-feathers dark brown.

Bill and feet horny black; iris dark brown. Wing,<sup>3</sup> 5 "♂" 122–126 (124.1), 4 "♀" 118–125 (121.2); tail, 5 "♂" 70–77 (73.5), 4 "♀" 69–74 (71.6). Culmen, 26; bill from nostril, 15–16; tarsus, 30–31. Wing formula: 4>3>5>6>2.

RANGE.—Rarotonga, Cook Islands.  
This bird differs in so many respects from the other geographical representatives

of *Aplonis tabuensis*, that it might better be regarded a full species. The general coloration is approached by *A. t. manuae* from the Manua Islands, but *cinerascens* has a long, curved, not a short and high-arched bill. Gloss is almost entirely absent except for a little of it on the crown. The iris seems to be dark brown (according to Scott Wilson's statements on labels of the specimens in the Rothschild Collection) or dark slate color (according to Garrett, the collector of the type series), while most races of *A. tabuensis* have a yellow iris.

*Aplonis tabuensis manuae*, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 202277, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Tau, Manua Islands, American Samoa; December 21, 1923; R. H. Beck.

Very different from *tabuensis*; in coloration somewhat similar to *cinerascens* but much darker; head and back black; feathers of crown and nape lanceolate with a strong bluish or greenish gloss; feathers of upper back with glossy edges, those of lower back, rump and upper tail-coverts with grayish brown edges; feathers of under parts fuscous with broad gray edges; chin blackish; throat gray; breast, upper belly and flanks scaly fuscous and gray; lower belly and under tail-coverts dirty gray; no light shaft streaks on under or upper parts; tail and wings black; wing-feathers and wing-coverts more or less with a purplish or greenish blue gloss; lesser upper wing-coverts with narrow grayish purplish edges as upper back; a few of the inner secondaries with very narrow grayish edges; axillaries light gray; under wing-coverts dark gray; bill very small.

"Iris yellow, bill yellowish brown, feet brown."

	WING	TAIL
Tau		
9 ♂ ad.	105–112 (108.4)	57–62 (59.5)
12 ♀ ad.	102–107 (104.2)	51–59 (56.9)
Ofu		
9 ♂ ad.	105–111 (108.1)	58–62 (59.7)
5 ♀ ad.	103–104 (103.6)	53–57 (55.8)

<sup>1</sup> The preceding ten papers in this series are American Museum Novitates, Nos. 986, 1006, 1007, 1056, 1057, 1091, 1116, 1133, 1144 and 1152.  
<sup>2</sup> Submitted to the editor July 16, 1941.  
<sup>3</sup> Material of the Rothschild Collection.

Culmen, 19; bill from nostril, 11; tarsus, 26-28 mm.; wing formula: 3>4>5>2>6 or 4>3>5>6>2.

RANGE.—Manua Islands (Ofu, Olosinga, Tau), Samoa.

I consider this bird a subspecies of *tabuensis* since it agrees with that species in all of its structural characters. In its coloration, however, *manuae* is quite aberrant. Though lacking their prominent streaking, *manuae* is probably more closely related to the other Samoan forms than to typical *tabuensis*.

#### *Aplonis tabuensis tutuilae*, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 206364, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Tutuila Island, Samoa; April 16, 1924; J. G. Correia.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Very similar to *Aplonis tabuensis brevirostris* (Peale) but larger; under parts darker, light edges of feathers less conspicuous, light shaft streaks more pronounced; edges of feathers on lower back, rump and upper tail-coverts more brownish, less gray; gloss on crown variable as in *brevirostris*, sometimes more greenish, sometimes more purplish; bill large. Iris yellow.

Wing, 10 ♂ ad. 110-115 (112.2), 8 ♀ ad. 100-106 (101.2); tail, 10 ♂ ad. 58-66 (61.2), 8 ♀ ad. 52-58 (54.6). Culmen, 18-22; bill from nostril, 10-13; tarsus, 26-29.

RANGE.—Tutuila Island, American Samoa.

#### *Aplonis tabuensis brevirostris* (Peale)

*Lamprolornis brevirostris* PEALE, 1848, U. S. Explor. Exped., 7 (Birds), p. 111.—Upolu, Samoa.

Crown blackish, very much darker than back, feathers lanceolate with a greenish or bronze gloss; back fuscous brown, each feather with a margin that is narrow and dull gray on the upper back but broad and light gray on lower back, rump and upper tail-coverts; scapulars and upper wing-coverts colored as feathers of the back; upper throat whitish or light gray; lower throat, breast and belly brownish, every feather with a white shaft streak and a broad gray edge; crissum and under tail-coverts buffy white; axillaries and under wing-coverts whitish; wings black, with a slight greenish gloss, particularly on the primary-coverts; second to fifth secondary with broad white margins; tail blackish brown; bill small, yellowish brown; feet horn-brown; iris yellow.

Differs from *tabuensis* by its much smaller size, by being darker above and below, by being more distinctly streaked underneath and by having a yellow iris and a yellowish-brown bill.

	WING	TAIL
Upolu		
8 ♂ ad.	105-112 (107.5)	53-61 (57.6)
3 ♀ ad.	101-103 (101.8)	51-53 (52.0)
Savaii		
10 ♂ ad.	103-108 (105.9)	53-59 (55.9)
11 ♀ ad.	96-104 (101.6)	51-56 (53.1)

Culmen, 18.5-20.0; bill from nostril, 10-11; tarsus, 26-27.

RANGE.—Upolu and Savaii, Samoa Islands.

#### *Aplonis tabuensis brunnescens* Sharpe

*Aplonis brunnescens* SHARPE, 1890, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., 13, p. 132, Pl. 6.—Niue (Savage Island).

Similar to *A. t. brevirostris* but much browner, particularly on upper parts; crown brownish with hardly any metallic gloss; wings and tail also rather brownish; under parts ashy brown, every feather with narrow white shaft streak; crissum and under tail-coverts more whitish.

Wing,<sup>1</sup> 102, 104; tail, 60, 61. Culmen, 20, 21.5; bill (from nostril), 11.5, 12; tarsus, 29, 30.

RANGE.—Niue (Savage Island), central Polynesia.

The Whitney Expedition did not land on Niue Island and thus failed to obtain this species of which I have seen only the two above measured spirit specimens and the plate in the Cat. Birds Brit. Museum. It seems as if *brunnescens* was closer to *vitiensis* than to *brevirostris*, but this cannot be determined unless better material is examined.

#### *Aplonis tabuensis tabuensis* (Gmelin)

*Lanius tabuensis* GMELIN, 1788, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 1, p. 306.—Tongatabu, Tonga Islands.

*Aplonis marginata* GOULD, 1836, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 73.—Tonga Islands.

*Lamprolornis ? fusca* PEALE, 1848, U. S. Explor. Exped., 7 (Birds), p. 110.—Tonga and Fiji Islands, hereby restricted to Tonga.

*Aplonis marginalis* HARTLAUB, 1852, Arch. Naturg., pp. 103, 132, and

*Aplonis cassini* G. R. Gray, 1859, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 163.—New names for *fusca* Peale, preoccupied by *fuscus* Gould 1836.

Large, with a long bill; upper parts dark, under parts pale and with the white shaft streaks inconspicuous. Head, nape, sides of neck, sides of face and ear-coverts with an oil-green or violet-purple gloss; back, scapulars, upper wing-coverts and tertials dark brown; upper tail-

<sup>1</sup> Measurements of two unsexed spirit specimens from the Rothschild Collection (W. H. Travers coll.). Wetmore (1919, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 63, p. 218) records the measurements of three males and three females.

coverts and feathers of back and rump with gray or ochraceous gray edges; throat, breast, upper belly and flanks pale ash-gray with a more or less developed buffy wash and inconspicuous white shaft-lines; crissum and under tail-coverts grayish or whitish buff; axillaries and under wing-coverts dirty white; tail dark brown; wing-feathers blackish brown, primary-coverts with a greenish gloss; secondaries more brownish, outer secondaries edged with pale buffy gray.

Iris brown or yellowish, bill blackish, feet brown.

Wing, ♂ ad. 108–118 (112.5), ♀ ad. 105–112 (108.8); tail, ♂ ad. 60–71 (65.4), ♀ ad. 59–67 (63.0). Culmen, 23–26.5; bill from nostril, 13.5–16; tarsus, 28–30.

There is no consistent difference between birds from the southernmost (Ata) and northernmost (Vavau) island of the group, but there is considerable individual variation. The crown is sometimes more greenish, sometimes more purplish; the back varies between a dark (blackish) and a pale (cinnamon) shade of brown; the white shaft streaks of the feathers of the under parts are generally well visible but sometimes much reduced; the general coloration of the under parts may be paler or darker.

The populations from Turtle Island and Ono Ilau are best referred to *tabuensis* although they average slightly darker; the white shaft streaks on the feathers of the under parts are more pronounced. Most important is that the iris in all these specimens is yellow. In all Tonga birds the iris is indicated as brown, except in two Tonga-tabu birds in which it is recorded as yellowish. The measurements of birds from the two islands are: wing, 6 ♂ 109–115 (111.7), 1 ♀ 103; tail, 6 ♂ 65–69 (67.8), 1 ♀ 63.5.

RANGE.—Tonga Islands (Ata, Tonga-tabu, Eua, Honga Hapai, Honga Tonga, Kelelesia, Tonumeia, Telekitonga, Lalona, Mango, Namukaiki, Fonoifua, Namuka, Oua, Tongva, Teaba, Haafeva, Uihā, Ava, Uoleva, Fotuhā, Lifuka, Tofua, Foa, Kao, Haano, Moungaone, Ofolanga, Late, Euakafa and Vavau).

#### *Aplonis tabuensis tenebrosus*, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 250787, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Boscawen Island, central Polynesia, August 25, 1925; Whitney South Sea Expedition.

Somewhat similar to *tabuensis* but smaller, and entire plumage very much darker. Head black with a greenish gloss; back, scapulars, upper wing-coverts, rump and upper tail-coverts sooty black; edges of feathers on upper back glossy green, on lower back and rump more bronzy, under parts blackish fuscous-gray, with inconspicuous light shaft streaks; lower abdomen and crissum buffy ash-gray; breast blackish, throat lighter; wings black with a strong bluish-green gloss; buffy-gray margins of inner secondaries narrow and inconspicuous; tail blackish. Iris yellow.

Differs from *manuae* by the greenish, not purplish gloss, by the sooty, not deep black upper parts, and by the entirely different coloration of the under parts (shaft streaks, lack of the gray feather margins, etc.); differs from the Niuafoou form by the blacker coloration of back and under parts.

Wing, 12 ♂ 107–115 (111.2), 13 ♀ 104–111 (107.2); tail, ♂ 60–69.5 (64.3), ♀ 57–65 (60.8). Culmen, 22–23; bill from nostril, 13–13.5; tarsus, 29–30.5.

RANGE.—Keppel and Boscawen Islands, central Polynesia.

#### *Aplonis tabuensis nesiotus*, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 250751, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Niuafoou Island, central Polynesia; August 17, 1925; Whitney South Sea Expedition.

Similar to *tabuensis* but averaging larger and much darker, particularly below. Head and hind neck black with a strong oil-green gloss; back blackish brown, lighter toward rump and upper tail-coverts; feathers of upper back with glossy greenish margins; on lower back, rump and upper tail-coverts these margins are brownish with just a faint purplish gloss. Throat dark ash-gray; breast, upper abdomen and flanks dark brown, every feather with an inconspicuous light shaft and an ash-gray edge, lower abdomen paler; wings and tail as in *tabuensis* but darker. Iris yellow.

Wing, 10 ♂ 112–119 (116.0), 3 ♀ 112, 113, 115; tail, ♂ 67–72 (69.8), ♀ 67, 67, 68. Culmen, 23–24.5; bill from nostril, 13.5–14.5; tarsus, 29–30.

RANGE.—Niuafoou Island, central Polynesia.

#### *Aplonis tabuensis fortunei* Layard

*Aplonis fortunei* LAYARD, 1876, Ibis, p. 147.—Fortuna Island.

Almost exactly half-way in its characters between *vitiensis* and *tabuensis*.

Differs from *vitiensis* by being darker throughout; crown cap more glossy and better defined; upper throat darker gray; whitish area on lower abdomen less extensive; white shaft streaks on under parts narrower and less conspicuous.

Differs from *tabuensis* by smaller size, a more brownish back, lighter under parts, but primarily by the presence of narrow but distinct white shaft streaks on the under parts. Iris yellow.

	WING	TAIL
Futuna		
♂ ad.	104-110 (107.3)	61-69 (64.8)
♀ ad.	100-106 (102.9)	57-63 (60.1)
Uea (Wallis)		
♂ ad.	106-111 (109.1)	65-71 (67.8)
♀ ad.	101-107 (105.1)	61-68 (64.2)

Culmen, 22-24; bill from nostril, 13-14.5; tarsus, 26-28.

RANGE.—Futuna, Alofa and Uea Islands, central Polynesia.

Uea birds average larger and slightly darker than the Futuna series, but the difference is not sufficient for subspecific separation. This race is remarkably similar to the Ongea Levu population of *vitiensis* which is also somewhat intermediate with *tabuensis* but slightly lighter and larger than *fortunae*.

#### *Aplonis tabuensis rotumae*, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 253880, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Rotuma Island, central Polynesia; May 20, 1925; Whitney South Sea Expedition (J. G. Correia).

Similar to *vitiensis*, but under parts paler and less contrasting; white shaft streaks on throat and breast less conspicuous, more washed out. Feathers of back and rump with broad grayish margins, not more or less brownish as in *vitiensis* or *fortunae*; crown also more grayish, not much darker than back; bill more slender, less curved. Very similar to *fortunae* in the color of the under parts, but shaft streaks on abdomen broader, and whitish area on lower abdomen more extensive; culmen less abruptly curved. Iris yellow.

Wing, ♂ 107-112 (109.1), ♀ 100-108 (103.8); tail, ♂ 62-67 (64.0), ♀ 58-63 (60.7). Culmen, 21-22.5; bill from nostril, 12-13.5; tarsus, 26-28.

RANGE.—Rotuma Island, central Polynesia.

#### *Aplonis tabuensis vitiensis* Layard

*Aplonis vitiensis* LAYARD, 1876, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 502.—Fiji Islands, restricted to Viti Levu Island.

Medium sized; upper parts brownish, feathers with glossy greenish edges; head not much darker than back, with a greenish gloss; throat grayish white, breast and flanks dark brownish gray, feathers with prominent white shaft streaks; lower abdomen and under tail-coverts whitish; wing and tail as in *tabuensis*.

Differs from *tabuensis* by smaller size, lighter color above and below, by the broader and more conspicuous streaking below and apparently by the prevalence of a yellow iris.

There is some geographical variation within the Fijian Archipelago which is, however, more or less obscured by individual variation. Birds from Ongea Levu, Lau group, average darker and have, in particular, a very dark crown which contrasts with the back. The gloss of the crown is purple, not greenish; the shaft streaks on the under parts are less well defined; the entire under parts are darker; the size is larger. This population is somewhat intermediate between *vitiensis* and *tabuensis*. Birds from the other islands of the Lau group are more and more similar to typical *vitiensis* as one goes northward from Ongea Levu.

There is considerable individual variation and much modification due to wear. Worn birds look quite different from fresh specimens by being paler above and below, more brownish, less glossy above and by having broader and more conspicuous shaft streaks.

		WING	TAIL
Ongea Levu	17 ♂	107-115 (111.1)	62-69 (66.3)
	8 ♀	102-110 (106.9)	60-65 (63.4)
Mothe, Komo }	8 ♂	105-112 (109.4)	61-68 (64.1)
Olorua }	10 ♀	102-108 (105.1)	58-64 (61.5)
Lakemba	12 ♂	107-114 (110.6)	61-69 (64.5)
	3 ♀	102, 105, 106	58-62 (60.8)
Totoya	5 ♂	103-108 (105.5)	61-65 (63.4)
Moala	6 ♂	98-104 (101.2)	57-64 (60.2)
Vanua }	13 ♂	101-111 (106.2)	56-67 (62.4)
Mbalavu }	7 ♀	97-105 (102.0)	54-62 (59.5)
Viti Levu }	7 ♂	100-109 (104.6)	59-66 (62.7)
Ovalau }	9 ♀	98-103 (101.1)	57-64 (59.9)
Kandavu group	11 ♂	98-106 (102.7)	56-64 (59.7)
	5 ♀	96-102 (99.3)	55-61 (57.8)

Culmen, 21-23; bill from nostril, 12-13; tarsus, 26-27.

**RANGE.**—Fiji Islands: Ongea Levu (y), Fulanga (y), Yangasa Cluster (y), Marambo (y), Kambara (y), Wangava (y), Tavunasithi (y), Namuka ilau (y), Komo (y), Mothe (y), Olorua (y), Oneata (y), Aiwa (y, b), Lakemba (y, b), Vanua masi (y), Matuku (b), Totoya (b), Moala (b), Vanua vatu (y), Naiau (b), Thithia (b), Tuvutha (y), Katavanga (y), Mango (y, b), Munia (b, y), Thikombia ilau (b), Sovu Rocks (y), Avea (b), Vanua Mbalavu (b, y), Kimbombo (b), Naitamba (b, y), Wailangilala (y, b), Vatu vara (y), Yathala (y, b), Vatanua (y, b), Thikombia (—), Ngele Levu (y), Nukumbasanga (y), Nanuku Levu (y), Taviuni (b), Rambai (b), Kio (b), Yendua (b), Namena (b), Makongai (b), Wakaya (b), Ngau (—), Ovalau (b), Viti Levu (b), Vatu Leile (b), Naviti (b), Yasawa (b), Kandavu (b), Ono (b), Yankuve (b), Ndravuni (b), Vanua Kula (b).

The letters in parentheses after the names of the islands indicate whether the birds of these islands have the iris yellow (y) or brown (b), or whether both kinds of coloration occur. It is remarkable that all the birds from the western and northern Fijis (Kandavu, Viti Levu, Taviuni, etc.) have a brown iris, while all the birds in the southern part of the Lau Archipelago have the iris yellow. In a rather narrow contact zone both types of iris coloration occur. This is the same region in which we have evidence of hybridization in many other species of Fijian birds.

#### ***Aplonis tabuensis pachyrhamphus*, new subspecies**

**TYPE.**—No. 216328, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Lomlom Island, Reef Islands, October 12, 1926; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

Similar to *fortuneae* but bill shorter and heavier, about 7.6-7.9 mm. high as against 6.8-7.0 in *fortuneae*; under parts duller, darker and more brown, particularly on throat and upper breast; no white shaft streaks on throat and upper breast; shaft streaks on lower breast and flanks less well defined and more drop shaped; upper parts very variable, according to plumage condition; in very fresh specimens crown very dark, sharply contrasting with back; in worn speci-

mens crown paler and back more grayish; color of dark upper parts gradually merging with lighter colored lower parts along sides of head and breast, not sharply contrasting as in *fortuneae*. Size larger, iris brown, not yellow.

Wing, ♂ ad. 108-115 (112.6), ♀ ad. 104-108 (106.3); tail, ♂ 62-68 (65.2), ♀ 60-63 (61.2). Culmen, 23-24; bill from nostril, 12-14.5; tarsus, 26-27.

**RANGE.**—Reef Islands (Lomlom), Swallow Islands (Nepani, Matema) and Tinakula Island, Santa Cruz Islands.

A series of four birds collected by the Templeton Crocker Expedition on Matema Island, Swallow group, which I was permitted to examine through the kindness of the authorities of the California Academy of Sciences, is in rather fresh plumage (collected July 7, 1933). They are particularly valuable for a comparison with a series in fresh plumage from Tinakula, Santa Cruz Islands. The latter has the crown lighter, less contrasting with the back, gloss more purplish, less green; under parts lighter; bill shorter. The difference is, however, too slight for subspecific recognition.

#### ***Aplonis tabuensis tucopiae*, new subspecies**

**TYPE.**—No. 216382, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Tucopia Island, February 11, 1927; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

A uniformly brownish bird without streaking on the under parts and with very little gloss; upper parts paler and browner than in *fortuneae*, with the purplish-brown crown hardly darker than the back; sides of head and ear-coverts brown, merging into the brownish gray of the throat; feathers of back brown with paler edges but without gloss; wing-feathers brown, not black, with no, or very little, gloss on the primary-coverts; margins of outer secondaries dirty white; tail brown. Under parts a uniform pale brownish gray, darker on breast, paler in middle of belly and on under tail-coverts; a few of the breast-feathers have light colored shafts. Iris yellowish or brown.

Wing, ♂ 106-109 (107.0), ♀ 105; tail, ♂ 64, 65, 67, ♀ 60, 61, 61. Culmen, 20.5-21; bill from nostril, 11.5-12; tarsus, 26-27.

**RANGE.**—Tucopia Island, east of Santa Cruz Islands.

The entire series, collected February 11, 1927, is moulting, and it is probable that the measurements of wing and tail are actually somewhat larger.

***Aplonis zelandicus zelandicus* (Quoy and Gaimard)**

*Lamprotorornis zelandicus* QUOY AND GAIMARD, 1830, Voy. Astrolab., 1, p. 190, Pl. 9, fig. 1.—“New Zealand,” in error for Vanikoro Island.

Upper parts a dull brownish fuscous; crown and nape with an indistinct dark streaking; feathers of back, if fresh, with a faint indication of a greenish gloss; feathers of lower back more rufous, rump and upper tail-coverts tawny; lores blackish; under parts buffy gray, darkest on breast, palest on upper throat and crissum; flanks and under tail-coverts tawny chestnut; wings brown, part of the outer webs of the eight inner primaries and six outer secondaries rufous chestnut; basal part of the inner webs of most wing feathers pale rufous; primary coverts blackish; wing-coverts and scapulars more or less as back.

Females as males, but smaller and slightly paler. Iris brown.

Wing, ♂ ad. 103–106 (104.5), ♂ imm. 98.5, 99, ♀ 99.5, 101; tail, ♂ ad. 59–61 (59.5), ♂ imm. 56.5, 57.5, ♀ 55. Culmen, 23–24; bill from nostril, 13.0–13.5; tarsus, 24.5–25.

RANGE.—Vanikoro Island, Santa Cruz Islands.

This species was, by mistake, described from New Zealand, but there is no doubt that Vanikoro is the true type locality, since this is the only island in the range of the Rufous-winged Starling that was visited by the Voyage de l’Astrolabe.

***Aplonis zelandicus maxwellii* Forbes**

*Aplonis maxwellii* FORBES, 1900, Bull. Liverpool Mus., 2, p. 116.—Santa Cruz Island.

Similar to *zelandicus* but slightly darker and much larger.

Wing, 4 ♂ 115–120 (116.8), 1 ♀ 109; tail, ♂ 65, 65, 67, ♀ 60. Culmen, 25–26.5; bill from nostril, 14–14.5; tarsus, 28–29.

RANGE.—Santa Cruz Island, Santa Cruz Islands.

This form was compared in its original description only with the New Hebrides form *rufipennis*. The type locality is, however, given as Santa Cruz Island, and there can be no doubt that the name *maxwellii* refers to this race.

***Aplonis zelandicus rufipennis* Layard**

*Aplonis rufipennis* LAYARD, 1881, Ibis, p. 542.—Vaté (Efate) Island, New Hebrides.

Similar to *zelandicus* but larger; under parts

brighter and buffier; upper parts very similar, but crown more washed with rufous; tail more blackish brown; chestnut of wing paler.

Wing, ♂ 106–114 (110.2), ♀ 103–111 (105.7); tail, ♂ 62–68 (64.7), ♀ 59–68 (63.8). Culmen, 24–25; tarsus, 28.

RANGE.—Central and northern New Hebrides and Banks Islands.

The Whitney Expedition obtained this subspecies on Paama, Lopevi, Pentecost, Aoba, Malekula, Malo, Santo, Bligh and Gaua Islands. The type locality is supposedly Efate Island, but L. L. Layard states distinctly that he had never come across the species on his several visits to Efate, but that the type was “forwarded in alcohol.” The Whitney Expedition did not encounter the species on Efate, and it is quite possible that the type specimen came from one of the other islands.

Birds from the Banks Islands are slightly smaller than New Hebrides specimens, but the difference is not sufficient for subspecific recognition.

***Aplonis atrifuscus* (Peale)**

*Lamprotorornis atrifusca* PEALE, 1848, U. S. Explorer. Exped., 7 (Birds), p. 109.—Upolu, Samoa.

For a description, see SHARPE, 1890, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., 13, p. 135.

	WING	TAIL
Upolu		
7 ♂	148–156 (152.1)	100–110 (104.9)
4 ♀	142–148 (144.2)	97–105 (102.5)
Savaii		
8 ♂	152–159 (156.0)	105–113 (109.8)
7 ♀	143–150 (146.2)	97–104 (100.5)
Olosinga		
21 ♂	149–162 (156.2)	100–115 (107.6)
8 ♀	146–149 (147.1)	97–105 (99.8)
Culmen, 34–36; bill from nostril, 21–22; tarsus, 35–36 Iris brown.		

RANGE.—Upolu, Savaii, Tutuila, Tau, Ofu and Olosinga, Samoa.

Birds from the Manua Islands (Tau, Ofu, Olosinga) have a slightly heavier and bigger bill than birds from western Samoa. The nearest relatives of this species seem to be *Aplonis zelandicus*, *A. grandis*, and possibly “*Kittlitzia*” *corvina*, a species unknown to me.



