

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 992

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

June 2, 1938

RESULTS OF THE ARCHBOLD EXPEDITIONS. No. 21

ON SOME NEW GUINEA BIRDS

By A. L. RAND

The following are the results of further study of the bird collections made in south New Guinea by the 1936-1937 Expedition.

Amaurornis olivacea ruficrissa (Gould)

Daru: 1 ♂ ad.; March 3, 1936.

Wuroi: 1 (♀?) (Native skin); 1934.

Dogwa: 1 ♀ juv.; February 25, 1934.

Wing: ♂ 150; ♀ (?) 131.

For comparison I have 2 males and 4 females (wing: ♂ 156, 158; ♀ 134, 138, 141, 142) from Arfak, Ifaar and southeast New Guinea and 5 males and 4 females (wing: ♂ 142, 143, 144, 145, 152; ♀ 129, 137, 139, 142) from Cape York and Bellenden Ker in Queensland.

The single south New Guinea male differs from the two other New Guinea males in possessing an enlarged, reddish base to the culmen and in having the under tail-coverts more rufous. In these characters it agrees with the Australian specimens though the reddish enlargement at the base of the culmen is not as great as with them.

The adult females from Australia have at most but a trace of the reddish base to the culmen, and it is as pronounced in a southeast New Guinea female as in any of the series of females.

The Australian and south New Guinea females have rufous under tail-coverts but the southeast New Guinea female has as rufous under tail-coverts as some of the Australian birds.

This appears to be the first record of this race for New Guinea.

Myiagra cyanoleuca (Vieillot)

Lake Daviumbu: 1 ♀ ad.; September 2.

Wing: 86.

This specimen, in fresh plumage, shows no significant differences when compared with somewhat worn specimens from Victoria. The male taken at Rona, March 10, by the 1933 Papuan Expedition was the

first record for the mainland of New Guinea for this species. It has long been known from the Louisiades, Woodlark Island and the D'Entrecasteaux Islands.

Dicrurus bracteatus Gould

Bugi: 1 ♀ ad.; January 3, 1937.

Daru: 1 ♂ ad., 2 ♀ imm., 1 (sex ?) ad., 1 (sex ?) imm.; March 6, 1934, March 14 to April 7, 1936.

Gaima: 5 ♂ imm., 3 ♀ imm.; November 10 to 20, 1936.

This series is plainly distinct from the Papuan form in: the greenish, rather than bluish-purple reflections of the iridescent spots on the upper parts and breast, and of the wings and tail; in the longer bill, and in the lesser extent of the feathers over the base of the bill and the nostrils, so that the nostrils are less heavily concealed, and more of the culmen toward the base is exposed. The bill is actually longer than in *carbonaria*, and this reduction of the feathering at the base makes it appear still more so.

In coloration the present specimens cannot be distinguished from a series of Queensland birds. The measurements of the adults compare well with those of the Queensland birds measured and the bill measurements of the immature specimens approach the bill measurements of the Queensland adults.

This form is definitely different from *carbonarius* and the question arises whether or not it is a different species.

The species *bracteatus* in Queensland breeds from October to January (North, 'Nests and Eggs of Birds Found Breeding in Australia and Tasmania,' I, pp. 85-88). At Cape York, Barnard recorded it as very common and migratory, coming from New Guinea in large numbers in October (Mathews, 'Birds of Austr.,' XII, p. 286).

In November, at Gaima, drongos were common, and the actions of many of them strongly indicated that they were migrating. They were commonly seen singly, in pairs, or in small parties flying thirty to sixty yards up over the savanna and over the forest. They all appeared to be moving toward the southeast; that is, parallel to the river, as though working down to the end of the point of land between the Fly and the Bamu before crossing to Australia. This interested me in the possibility of the Australian birds being present, so that I collected a series of nine birds at this camp. Eight of them proved to be of the Australian type not in breeding condition, while only one was of the purplish Papuan type. Based on this evidence alone it would appear that the

Australian form was only a migrant to south New Guinea. But later, in January, Tate secured a bird of the Australian type at Bugi, which was in breeding condition. The March and April specimens from Daru in worn dress or molting, and none in breeding condition, indicate nothing as to migration or residence.

The evidence as to *D. bracteatus* as a breeding bird within the range of *carbonarius* rests on the Bugi specimen. While no other specimen of drongo was collected at Bugi, a series from Tarara, 20 miles inland and to the northwest (1936, 1937), and from the Oriomo River about 20 miles inland (1934), were all *carbonaria*. All the Daru drongos collected (five specimens) were *bracteata*.

Salvadori (1881, 'Ornith. del. Pap. e del. Molucc.,' II, p. 175) has already recorded *bracteatus* from 150 and 200 miles up the Fly River (D'Albertis coll.) in June. These could have been migrants from Australia.

It appears that some of the Australian *bracteatus* migrate to south New Guinea to spend the Australian winter while some breed in south New Guinea so that *bracteatus* must be considered a separate species and the rest of the forms hitherto included in *bracteatus* must be grouped under the next oldest name *carbonarius* Bonaparte, 1850, 'Consp. Gen Avium,' I, p. 352, "Nov. Guinea," with its type locality restricted to Lobo by Stresemann (1923, Arch. für Naturgeschichte, p. 46).

	MALE ADULT		MALE IMMATURE		FEMALE ADULT		FEMALE IMMATURE	
	WING	BILL ¹	WING	BILL ¹	WING	BILL ¹	WING	BILL ¹
<i>carbonarius</i>								
South New Guinea	150, 151, 152, 154	32, 30, 32.5,	140, 140, 141, 144, 147	28, 30, 30, 31.5, 30	140, 140, 141, 144, 147	28, 30, 30, 31.5, 30	135, 138	28, 27
<i>bracteatus</i>								
South New Guinea	156	34	147, 150, 152, 153, 161	35, 34, 35, 35, 37.5	157	35	140, 145, 144, 147, 150, 157	33, 33, 35, 35, 33.5
Queensland	154, 155, 158, 163, 165, 165, 167, 169	36, 36.5, 36, 37, 36, 36, 37.5, 36.5, 36			148, 149, 149, 154, 158, 159, 159, 162, 166	35.5, 32, 32.5, 35, 35, 34, 35, 35.5	148, 155	34, 37

¹ Culmen from base.