

# AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Published by

Number 1152 THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
New York City

October 30, 1941

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

NOTES ON THE GENERA *HALCYON*, *TURDUS* AND *EUROSTOPODUS*

By ERNST MAYR

It has been considered advisable to publish the descriptions of several new *Halcyon* forms discovered by the Whitney South Sea Expedition, so that Mr. Peters will be able to include these forms in the

forthcoming volume of the Check-List of Birds of the World. The descriptions of several new forms of *Turdus* and of a new subspecies of *Eurostopodus* are included in the present paper.

### NOTES ON *HALCYON CHLORIS*

A complete revision of the eastern forms of this genus is in preparation; the description of the present new forms shall, therefore, be introduced by just a few remarks. In 1931 I gave a preliminary classification of the superspecies *Halcyon chloris* (Mayr, 1931, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 469, p. 3) which will have to be amended in several respects. To begin with, there is no adequate reason why *pealei* (Tutuila), *owstoni* or *albicilla* (Marianas), should be separated specifically from *chloris*. They differ only by minor color characters and are, furthermore, connected with *chloris* by intermediate forms. In the meantime it has also been pointed out by the Australian ornithologists that *Halcyon chloris* and *sancta* breed side by side over a considerable stretch of territory (coast of southern Queensland and northern New South Wales) and cannot, therefore, be considered as conspecific as Laubmann had proposed. Also a study of the forms of "*Todirhamphus*" has shown that they are nothing but aberrant offshoots of *Halcyon chloris*. Even though we do not propose to unite these flat-billed kingfishers of eastern Polynesia specifically with *H. chloris*, there is, at least, no question that the genus *Todirhamphus* is not valid.

All these findings have been used in a map published in the American Naturalist, 74 (1940), p. 274. A doubtful situation still exists in the Admiralty Islands where *Halcyon chloris anachoraeta* seems to connect the species *chloris* and *saurophaga*. An analysis of this situation is in preparation. Some remarks on the eastern Polynesian forms have recently been made by Berlioz (1939, C. R. IXme Congr. Orn. Int., pp. 87-91). It may be mentioned that no differences could be found between specimens of *sacra* from the various parts of the Tonga Islands. The differences between *sacra*, *rabulata* and *celada* (Wetmore, 1919, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., LXIII, pp. 197-198) are due to wear. I am very grateful to Dr. H. Friedmann for the loan of the Polynesian Kingfisher material of the U. S. National Museum, including the types of *rabulata* and *celada* and most of Peale's specimens. It may also be stated that *coronata* Peale, 1848, and *tutuila* Sharpe, 1892, are synonyms of *pealei* Finsch and Hartlaub, 1867; *platyrostris* Gould, 1842, and *minima* Peale, 1848, are synonyms of *recurvirostris* Lafresnay, 1842, and *cassini* Finsch and Hartlaub, 1867; *superciliosa* Gray, 1870, and *swenensis* Sharpe, 1892, are synonyms of *vitiensis* Peale, 1848. These synonyms were created by authors who did not

<sup>1</sup> The preceding ten papers of this series are 977, 986, 1006, 1007, 1056, 1057, 1091, 1116, 1133 and 1144.

appreciate how strong seasonal, sexual and age variation is in *Halcyon chloris*.

For the methods of measuring and the terminology of body parts, see Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 469.

***Halcyon chloris manuae*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 202070, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Tau, Manua Islands, Samoa; December 24, 1923; Whitney South Sea Expedition (Beck and Correia).

ADULT MALE.—Similar to *sacra*, but loreal spot larger, ring-band wider and more deeply ochraceous; general coloration greener, even in worn plumage; nuchal collar blackish; axillaries often washed with ochraceous.

ADULT FEMALE.—Differs from that of *sacra* by wider ring-band, blackish nuchal collar and greener upper parts.

OFU.—Wing, 7 ♂ ad. 96–101 (98.9), 4 ♂ imm. 93–95.5 (94.2), 5 ♀ ad. 97.5–102 (100.3); tail, ♂ ad. 65–69 (67.1), ♂ imm. 66.5–67.5 (66.9), ♀ ad. 67.5–70 (68.9); bill, ♂ ad. 32.8–37.7 (35.9), ♂ imm. 35.8–37.5 (36.6), ♀ ad. 35.4–39.2 (36.6).

OLOSINGA.—Wing, 8 ♂ ad. 95–99 (97.4), 3 ♂ imm. 91, 92.5, 92.5, 8 ♀ ad. 97–102.5 (100.0); tail, ♂ ad. 63.5–69 (67.2), ♂ imm. 66, 66.5, 67, ♀ ad. 66–72 (69.0); bill, ♂ ad. 34.8–36.4 (35.5), ♂ imm. 31.5, 34.4, 35.8, ♀ ad. 32.0–37.7 (34.7).

TAU.—Wing, 14 ♂ ad. 97–100.5 (98.6), 4 ♂ imm. 94–95 (94.8), 4 ♀ ad. 100–102 (101.1); tail, ♂ ad. 65–68 (66.6), ♂ imm. 66–68 (67.0), ♀ ad. 68–72 (69.2); bill, ♂ ad. 35.2–39.4 (36.7), ♂ imm. 35.1–40.3 (37.6), ♀ ad. 37.1–37.8 (37.5).

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

There are no differences between series from the three islands. This race differs from *pealei* (Tutuila) by the much narrower ring-band and collar, and by a larger blue spot on the ear-coverts.

***Halcyon chloris marina*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 249571, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Ongea Levu, Fiji Islands; August 4, 1924; Whitney South Sea Expedition (Mrs. Correia).

ADULT MALE.—Differs from *vitiensis* by the larger loreal spots, by the broader ring-band, by the blacker nuchal band, by the paler under parts and the reduced or absent ocher wash on flanks and under wing. Differs from *manuae* by the presence of more phaeomelanin; crown and back are more greenish; lores, ring-band and flanks more ochraceous; the nuchal band is blacker, the size smaller.

ADULT FEMALE.—Differs from *vitiensis* by the greener and more fuscous upper parts, by a broader ring-band, by a blacker nuchal band and by the absence of a buff wash on flanks and under wing. Differs from *manuae* by the greener color of crown and back and by a pronounced buffy ocher wash of lores, ring-band and collar; the black vermiculation on the sides of the neck is more pronounced. The blue *sacra* is very different.

Wing, ♂ ad. 92.5–99 (95.1), ♀ ad. 93.5–99 (96.2); tail, ♂ ad. 62–67 (65.1), ♀ ad. 63–69 (66.5); bill, ♂ ad. 33.9–39.6 (36.1), ♀ ad. 32.2–38.4 (36.0). These measurements are based on a series from Ongea Levu Island.

RANGE.—Lau Archipelago, eastern Fiji.

A discussion of the individual and geographical variation within the range of this race will be included in a revision of the entire species.

***Halcyon chloris eximia*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 249513, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Ono Island, Fiji Islands; October 31, 1924; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

ADULT MALE.—Differs from *marina* by larger size, more bluish upper parts, a narrower ring-band, paler (almost whitish) lores, more buffy flanks and under wing, and a more bluish nuchal collar. Differs from *vitiensis* by larger size, paler lores and superciliary, a broader ring-band and by much paler flanks and under wing.

ADULT FEMALE.—Differs from *marina* by larger size, the much bluer upper parts and a narrower ring-band. Differs from *vitiensis* by larger size, a broader ring-band, and less black vermiculation on the sides of the breast.

Wing, 8 ♂ ad. 97.5–101.5 (99.2), 6 ♀ ad. 100.5–105 (102.4); tail, ♂ ad. 66–70 (68.2), ♀ ad. 70–71.5 (70.9); bill, ♂ ad. 34.1–36.8 (35.2), ♀ ad. 33.0–38.6 (35.5).

RANGE.—Kandavu group (Kandavu, Ono, Yankuve, Ndravuni and Vanua Kula), Fiji Islands.

This subspecies is rather variable, in particular in regard to the width of the ring-band. The nuchal band is rather blackish in three males, bluish in five others. The posterior part of the ring-band is deep golden ocher in all of the adult males. The posterior part of the ring-band is whitish in three females, and buffy ocher in three others.

***Halcyon chloris regina*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 249742, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Futuna Island, central Polynesia; May

7, 1925; Whitney South Sea Expedition (J. G. Correia).

**ADULT MALE.**—Very different from all the other Polynesian subspecies of the species. Under parts washed with ocher, flanks, axillaries and under wing deep ocher; sides of breast and of neck vermiculated; crown, scapulars and back very greenish; wing-coverts, wing-feathers, rump and tail greenish blue; upper cheeks, ear-coverts and nuchal band greenish black; nuchal band rather narrow, more blackish than the ear-coverts; lores and ring-band rufous ocher; loreal spot rather large, feathers of forehead with ocher edges; ring-band very wide broadening behind the pileum into a large rufous ocher patch; collar rufous buff. Differs from *vitiensis* in the broad ring-band and the greenish upper parts, from *pealei* in the color of the under parts and by lacking the rufous white patch of the forehead.

**ADULT FEMALE.**—Unknown.

**IMMATURE.**—Of duller color throughout; ring-band narrower; nuchal collar more blackish; wing-coverts broadly edged with ocher.

Wing, 4 ♂ ad. 97+, 97.5, 98.5+, 99+, 2 imm. 94, 94; tail, 4 ♂ ad. 63, 63, 64, 66, 2 imm. 61, 61; bill, 4 ♂ ad. 32.3, 33.1, 33.1, 38.0, 2 imm. 30.1, 33.0.

**RANGE.**—Futuna Island, central Polynesia.

This subspecies is somewhat intermediate between *vitiensis* and *pealei*, but not particularly close to either. All four adult males (collected May 4-7) are completing their wing molt.

### *Halcyon bougainvillei excelsa*,

new subspecies

**TYPE.**—No. 225048, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀; Guadalcanar Island, Solomon Islands; July 26, 1927; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

Somewhat resembling *bougainvillei*, but differing in many respects; crown of a duller, more cinnamomeous, less orange-rust color; malar stripe and nuchal band (from eye to eye) of a darker, more ultramarine blue, collar much narrower, not extending so far on the upper back; under parts much paler, pale ocher, instead of rusty orange; upper back and scapulars blackish olive, instead of cinnamon-olive-brown as in the female, or rich deep blue as in the male; turquoise blue field on lower back and rump reduced and more greenish; wings and tail of a dark dull purplish blue. Size as in *bougainvillei*: wing, 131; tail, 91; bill from nostril, 37.

**RANGE.**—Guadalcanar Island.

Unfortunately, only a single specimen, sexed as female, of this interesting new form was collected, which by its peculiarly soft plumage indicates that it might not be fully adult. The differences in the color of the back are so striking that further material might make it necessary to consider this form a full species. The type locality is at 4000 feet, inland from Cape Hunter, at the south shore of Guadalcanar Island.

### ON SOME UNDESCRIBED RACES OF *TURDUS POLIOCEPHALUS*

An incomplete manuscript on this species was laid aside by me in 1933 because certain difficulties seemed to make a satisfactory revision impossible. It was hoped that the receipt of additional material from the Pacific islands might solve some of these difficulties, but, unfortunately, no collections have been made on the crucial islands during recent years. It was, therefore, decided to publish at least the descriptions of some of the new forms discovered by the Whitney South Sea Expedition.

The difficulties encountered by the reviser of the *Turdus poliocephalus* group are manifold. No specimens, except for the ancient types of *vanikorensis*, are available from Vanikoro Island in the Santa Cruz group, the first Polynesian island on which the species was discovered. This is the more unfortunate, since nobody

has yet been able to find a difference between the Vanikoro types and the population (*marensis*) from Maré Island in the Loyalty Islands. A small series, collected by the Whitney South Sea Expedition, on Utupua Island, Santa Cruz, agrees well with the description of *vanikorensis*, and is equally indistinguishable from three Maré birds. To make matters worse, there is a third population, on the islands Espiritu Santo and Malo in the New Hebrides, which equally lacks any characters by which it could be distinguished from *vanikorensis*. This subspecies has, thus, the paradoxical range: Vanikoro and Utupua, Santa Cruz Islands; Espiritu Santo and Malo, New Hebrides; and Maré Island, Loyalty Islands. The three blackish populations from the Santa Cruz group, New Hebrides, and Loyalty Islands,

which we unite under one name, have, in all probability, nothing to do with each other, phylogenetically, but are only so similar because the heavy pigmentation has covered up all the possible finer racial differences in a species which does not tend to much geographical variation in size.

It is curious that this species with its highly similar populations at far distant points should also have highly dissimilar subspecies on neighboring islands. The rather similar populations of Maré and Efate are separated by white-headed races on Lifu, Tanna and Erromango. Every one of the islands of the New Hebrides and Banks Islands has a population of this species which is slightly different from that of any other island. Much more remarkable, however, is the situation in the Fiji Islands. In this archipelago we find nearly all of the most extreme color patterns which occur throughout the range of *poliocephalus*. On Kandavu is the black *bicolor* with buff head and throat, on Ngau is a solid black bird, on Viti Levu and neighboring islands occurs the gray *layardi* with chestnut-brown abdomen and flanks, on Vanua Levu occurs the all gray *vitiensis*, and on Taviuni the black *tempesti* with gray head and throat. It is not surprising that some authors have put these different forms in four or five species.

***Turdus poliocephalus hades*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 252607, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Ngau Island, Fiji; February 20, 1925; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

Similar to *samoensis*, but of a deeper, more glossy black, head and throat not distinctly lighter than rest of body; size averaging larger, bill longer (24.1–24.9, against 22.9–24.3 in *samoensis*); outer edges of primaries not showing a distinct brownish wash; feathers of under parts of immature birds with prominent rufous-fuscous edges. Darker and larger than *vanikorensis*.

MALE ADULT.—Wing, 110, 111; tail, 76, 79; bill, 24.1, 24.9.

RANGE.—Ngau Island, Fiji Islands.

This is the only black thrush in the Fiji Islands. Unfortunately, most of the seven specimens from this island are molting or immature, but the characters of the race

are sufficiently pronounced and the range isolated enough to justify the description of this population.

***Turdus poliocephalus efatensis*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 213152, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ subadult; Efate Island, New Hebrides; June 24, 1926; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

Adult males indistinguishable from those of *vanikorensis* from Utupua. Subadult (first year) males distinctly lighter. Feathers of back in six of seven specimens with broad brownish-olive margins; only one bird black above. Under parts similar to coloration in subadult *vanikorensis* but the rufous brown margins of the feathers of breast and flanks are broader and more rufous, less cinnamon. One subadult female shows the same characters.

Wing, 8 ♂ ad. 101–109 (104.4), 6 ♂ subad. 96–103 (99.8), 1 ♀ subad. 97; tail, 8 ♂ ad. 67–73 (70.2), 6 ♂ subad. 62–68 (64.3), 1 ♀ subad. 64; bill, ♂ ad. 22–23.

RANGE.—Efate and Nguna Islands, central New Hebrides.

***Turdus poliocephalus becki*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 213142, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Mai Island, New Hebrides; July 12, 1926; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

Much lighter than *vanikorensis* or *efatensis*.

ADULT MALE.—Upper parts brownish black, not sooty black; feathers of back occasionally edged with olive-brown; under parts ash-gray; throat and upper breast distinctly paler and sharply set off from the dark ashy flanks and abdomen; feathers of flanks narrowly edged with pale ash-gray or with rusty gray; middle of abdomen whitish; under tail-coverts with narrow or broad white tips. Similar to *vitiensis*, but differing in being generally darker, in having the crown as dark as the back, in having a much darker gray throat and having more white on crissum and under tail-coverts.

ADULT FEMALE.—Differs from *efatensis* by being paler, particularly on the throat which is ashy, not fuscous black; feathers of flanks with broad rufous margins; feathers of back with narrow olive-brown undulation. Subadult male very much like female, but slightly darker.

Wing: Mai, 5 ♂ ad. 105–110 (107.2); Epi, 6 ♂ ad. 100–109 (104.5); Lopevi, 4 ♂ ad. 101–104 (103.0). Tail (♂ ad.): Mai, 70–76 (71.8); Epi, 67–75 (70.3); Lopevi, 69–71 (70.0). Wing: ♂ subad., Mai (3), 100, 103, 105; Epi (3), 99, 100, 100; Lopevi (3), 96, 99, 102; ♀ ad., Mai (1), 100; Lopevi (4), 97–100 (98.2). Bill, ♂ ad. 22–23; tarsus, 31–33.

RANGE.—Mai, Epi, Lopevi and Paama Islands, New Hebrides.

The birds from the mentioned four islands are not exactly identical and additional material might lead to further subdivision. The adult males from Mai and Epi are indistinguishable, but three subadult males from Epi are darker above and below than four subadult males from Mai, and have less pronounced rufous margins to the flank feathers. The Lopevi population is, more or less, intermediate between *becki* and the Malekula race; in fact, its pronounced variability suggests that it is a hybrid population. Of four adult males three agree better with *becki*, one better with the Malekula bird. The Lopevi females are grayish above, not olivaceous as Mai females. Subadult Lopevi males are darker above and below than Mai birds. A single Paama female (subadult) seems to agree with the Lopevi females.

***Turdus poliocephalus malekulae*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 214418, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Malekula Island, New Hebrides; August 23, 1926; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

ADULT MALE.—Similar to *vanikorensis*, but not quite as black, particularly on the under parts; throat and upper breast dark gray, distinctly lighter than blackish abdomen and flanks; crissum whitish; under tail-coverts with white or buffy white tips. Subadult male rather blackish above with inconspicuous grayish or olive-gray margins to the feathers, much darker than *efatensis*; underneath grayish black, paler than *efatensis*; feathers of flanks with narrow gray, not with broad rufous margins; much white on crissum and under tail-coverts.

ADULT FEMALE.—Rather similar to *becki*, but duller and grayer. Upper parts blackish olive-gray, instead of olive-brown; flanks and abdomen not rufous, but more or less gray; feathers with inconspicuous buffy gray margins; much paler and grayer than *vanikorensis*.

MALEKULA.—Wing, ♂ ad. (3) 106, 108, 109, ♂ subad. (3) 104, 105, 107, ♀ ad. (4) 99–107 (103.0), ♀ subad. (1) 99; tail, ♂ ad. 71, 76 76, ♂ subad. 72, 73, ♀ ad. 67–73 (69.0), ♀ subad. 65; culmen 23–23.5; tarsus 31.

AMBRYM.—Wing, ♂ ad. (5) 103–109 (105.8), ♀ ad. 105, ♀ imm. 102; tail, ♂ ad. 70–75 (71.6), ♀ ad. 68, ♀ imm. 63; culmen 22.5–24; tarsus 31–31.5.

RANGE.—Malekula, (subsp.) Ambrym and (subsp.) Pentecost.

Only a single spotted nestling is available from Pentecost which does not permit racial identification. The Ambrym series

is lighter than the Malekula population, tending in the direction of *becki*, but closer to *malekulae* than to the Lopevi population of *becki*. The single adult female from Ambrym is, in fact, darker than the Malekula females. These differences are too slight to separate the Ambrym population subspecifically.

***Turdus poliocephalus whitneyi*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 214390, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Gaua Island, Banks Islands; September 11, 1926; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

ADULT MALE.—Small. Black as in *vanikorensis*, but upper throat paler and feathers of flanks with an indication of rufous margins; crissum white; under tail-coverts with white shaft-streaks. Subadult male as black above as *vanikorensis*, but rufous margins of flank feathers broader, throat paler and under tail-coverts with broader white shaft-streaks.

ADULT FEMALE.—Sooty black above with a slight brownish wash, below quite different from *vanikorensis*, but similar to *efatensis* by having broad tawny-chestnut margins to the feathers of abdomen and flanks; crissum white; under tail-coverts with broad white or buff shaft-streaks.

Wing, ♂ ad. 98, 102, ♂ subad. 97, ♀ ad. 95, 96; tail, ♂ ad. 65, 68, ♂ subad. 65, ♀ ad. 61, 61; culmen 22–22.5; tarsus 32.

RANGE.—Gaua Island, Banks Islands.

***Turdus poliocephalus placens*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 216298, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Vanua Lava Island, Banks Islands; November 10, 1941; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

ADULT MALE.—Small and pale. In color rather similar to *becki*, but crown darker, as dark or even more deeply colored than the back; throat and breast not conspicuously paler than belly and flanks; under parts rather scaly, since pale feather edges contrast with dark feather centers; feathers of flanks with pronounced rufous brown margins; crissum white, under tail-coverts with very narrow buffy white shaft-streaks.

ADULT FEMALE.—Similar to that of *becki*, but sootier, less olive, above; under parts also darker, flank feathers purer chestnut; crissum white, fairly broad white shaft-streaks on the under tail-coverts.

Wing, ♂ ad. 97, 97.5, 100, ♀ ad. 97, 100; tail, ♂ ad. 64, 64, 65, ♀ ad. 60, 65; culmen 21.5–22; tarsus 32–32.5.

RANGE.—Vanua Lava and (subsp.) Bligh Islands, Banks Islands.

A subadult male (w. 101, t. 69) and an adult female (w. 100, t. 69) from Bligh Island are best referred to *placens*. The female is exceedingly similar to *becki*, while the male is slightly darker than subadult *becki* males.

The iris is brown, bill and feet yellow in all the described races.

***Turdus poliocephalus bougainvillei*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 226229, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Bougainville Island; January 20, 1928; Whitney South Sea Expedition (G. Richards).

ADULT MALE.—In size larger than the blackish forms of the *vanikorensis* group, but smaller than the New Guinea forms of the *papuensis* group. In size and coloration somewhat similar to *heinrothi* (St. Matthias), but darker and with shorter bill; head and throat well feathered; crown of the same color as the back; throat and upper breast a shade paler than the abdomen, but no distinct breast shield developed.

Differs from *rennelianus* by being paler and browner; crissum and under tail-coverts pure sooty brown, without any buff or white marks; differs from *vanikorensis* (Utupua) by larger size, by being of a duller, sootier black and by the absence of pale tips on the under tail-coverts.

ADULT FEMALE.—Similar to male, but smaller and back and rump with an olive-gray tinge; feathers of under parts with a somewhat scaly appearance due to fuscous ocher margins.

Wing, ♂ ad. 111–114 (112.7), ♀ ad. 108, 108, 108; tail, ♂ ad. 82–87 (84.6), ♀ 79, 80, 80; culmen, 23–23.5; tarsus, 30–31.

RANGE.—Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands.

The typical series of this form was collected near the village of Kupei, about five walking hours west of Kieta, at an altitude of between 4000 and 5000 feet,

by a party consisting of Dr. F. P. Drowne, H. Hamlin and Guy Richards. Later on Hamlin collected two additional specimens in northeastern Bougainville on the slope of Mt. Balbi. These are larger (wing, ♂ 115, ♀ 110; tail, ♂ 88, ♀ 84), have longer bills (♂ 24.5) and seem to have broader margins on the abdominal feathers. It is not known whether or not they were collected at a higher altitude. The difference is too slight to justify subspecific recognition.

***Turdus poliocephalus kulambangrae*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 226253, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Kulambangra Island; September 30, 1927; Whitney South Sea Expedition (R. H. Beck).

ADULT MALE.—Similar to *bougainvillei*, but much darker, even somewhat darker than *vanikorensis*, but not as jet black as *samoensis*; differs from *vanikorensis* also by lacking the whitish patch on the lower abdomen and by having pure black under tail-coverts; much smaller than *bougainvillei*, but about of the size of *vanikorensis*.

SUBADULT MALE.—Much blacker than those of *vanikorensis*, particularly on the under parts; rufous brown tips and edges of feathers much darker.

♂ ad., wing 104, tail 72, culmen 24, tarsus 32; ♂ subad., wing 104, tail 71, tarsus 31.

RANGE.—Mountains of Kulambangra Island, Solomon Islands.

This isolated mountain form is distinct enough to be described even though only two specimens are known. The species has, so far, been found only on two of the four principal mountain islands of the Solomon Islands, but it surely occurs also on Guadalcanar.

A NEW NIGHTJAR FROM NEW CALEDONIA

***Eurostopodus mystacalis exul*,**  
new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 337760, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♀ ad.; Tao, northwestern New Caledonia; August 21, 1939; L. Macmillan.

Above rather light gray; feathers in central part of crown with broad black tips which merge into a black pileum; feathers on sides of crown and on nape are pale gray, lightly vermiculated with brown; central back pale gray, separated on either side by a longitudinal series of black streaks from a more brownish-gray region; scapulars much variegated, with bold whitish-

gray marks adjoining the wing; outer margins of longer scapulars with rufous gray spots on black background; uppermost throat black with pale ocher-buff margins; central throat with broader rusty buff margins, sides of throat with broad white spots; breast with a fine gray vermiculation; abdomen rather finely barred with black and rusty ocher; under tail-coverts ocher with a few narrow black-brown bars; under wing-coverts black, heavily marked with tawny rufous spots and bars; lesser upper wing-coverts brownish gray, finely vermiculated; median and greater upper wing-coverts much lighter; primary-coverts and outermost wing-

coverts blackish, with dark rufous spots; primaries blackish with two or three faint grayish-brown spots; second and third primary with a small white spot on the outer web; fourth primary with a much broader bar which continues on the inner web; secondaries blackish with irregular rufous cross bars; tertials whitish gray, with a blackish stripe along the shaft and with some black-brown vermiculation; rump, upper tail-coverts and central tail-feathers pale gray with irregular blackish bars and vermiculation; outermost three tail-feathers blackish with about twelve rather regular and well-defined bars that are pale rufous near the base and more grayish near the tip.

Differs from *mystacalis* by being much lighter above, by having a more or less solid black crown, by having only the faintest indication of a rufous collar, but principally by the color of the wing: The white areas on the outer webs of the second to fourth primary are more like bars and are not accompanied by a series of rust-colored spots, the inner webs of the primaries are solid black or show just faint rufous bars, no whitish or buff spots, except on the fourth

primary. The size is much smaller and the wing much more rounded.

Wing, 184; tail, 138.

RANGE.—Known only from the type, an adult female in egg-laying condition (weight 77 g.), collected on the coastal flats near Mount Panie.

The New Caledonian form is very different from the Australian *mystacalis*, but is clearly its representative. In view of the fact that the equally distinct Solomon Island form *nigripennis* is, generally, considered a race of *mystacalis* and that there are six other good species in the genus, it is probably best to call *exul* a subspecies of *mystacalis*. The name *mystacalis* has 3-5 months priority over *albugularis* V. and H., which was published late in 1826 or in February, 1827, not in February, 1826, as some authors have erroneously maintained.

