

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 Wigglesworth, 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 admirabilis* 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.)