

83. XENORHYNCHUS AUSTRALIS, *Lath.*
84. NYCTICORAX CALEDONICUS, *Gm.*
85. ARDEA PACIFICA, *Lath.*
86. HERODIAS ASHA.
87. HERODIAS GARZETTA.
88. HERODIAS PICATA, *Gould.*
89. PORPHYRIO MELANOTUS, *Temm.*
90. TRIBONYX VENTRALIS, *Gould.*
91. FULICA AUSTRALIS, *Gould.*
92. NETTAPUS PULCHELLUS, *Gould.*
93. DENDROCYGNA VAGANS.
94. „ EYTONI, *Gould.*
95. TADORNA RAJAH.
96. NYROCA AUSTRALIS, *Gould.*
97. MALACORHYNCHUS MEMBRANACEUS.
98. THALASSEUS BENGALENSIS.
99. SYLOCHELIDON CASPIA.
100. HYDROCHELIDON LEUCOPAREIA, *Natt.*
101. STERNULA PLACENS.
102. PODICEPS GULARIS, *Gould.*
103. PLOTUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ, *Gould.*
104. SULA FIBER, *Linn.*
105. PELECANUS CONSPICILLATUS, *Temm.*
106. TACHYPETES AQUILA.

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Notes on a Collection of Birds from Port Moresby ; with descriptions of some *new species*. By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S.

Mr. A. Goldie, the botanical collector from the firm of Mr. B. S. Williams, the well-known plant merchant, of London, having safely returned from a perilous sojourn of nearly twelve months at Port Moresby, New Guinea, has brought with him a small collection of birds, which he obtained in that district ; and



having given me an opportunity of examining them, I beg leave to lay before the Society some remarks on the avi-fauna of that but recently known locality.

This collection, numbering over 200 skins, was chiefly obtained on the Laloki River, and within a radius of about fifteen miles of the settlement at Port Moresby. It contains, as will be seen by the list, at least forty Australian *species*. The *genera* inhabiting the south-eastern portion of New Guinea are to a great extent the same as those found at Cape York, and there are, as this and other collections I have examined prove, very few of the strictly or peculiar Papuan forms on the south-eastern portion of New Guinea. I was much gratified to find a fine new species of *Melidora*, of which genus of kingfishers only one was hitherto known. Some of the most interesting specimens contained in this collection are, a fine series of eight specimens of the southern variety of the Goura pigeon—*Goura*, or *Lophyrus coronata*, var. *D'Albertisi*, *Salvad*; a fine series of adults and young of the manycoloured *lorius* (*Eos*) *fuscatus*, (*Eos torrida* of G. R. Gray.) Of the beautiful *Cyclopsitta suavis* (Sclater) there are some nice specimens in different stages of plumage, and also four specimens of *Paradisea raggiana*, a very distinct and beautiful Bird of Paradise. All of these, with the exception of the Goura, I exhibit this evening.

The following is a complete List of Mr. GOLDIE'S Birds:—

1. *ASTUR*, sp. This bird agrees, in a great measure, with *Astur Mulleri* (Walt), but may, perhaps, prove to be *A. etorques* of Salvadori.

2. *HALIAETUS LEUCOGASTER*.

3. *HALIASTUR SPHENURUS*, v.

4. *MILVUS AFFINIS*, Gould.

5. ? *BAZA STENOZOA*

This bird is very similar to the Australian *Baza cristata*, but has a stronger bill in proportion to the size of the body, which, with the wings and tail, is slightly smaller than the average of



Australian specimens. It can only be looked on as a variety of *B. subcristata*, and may not be the true *B. stenozaa*.

6. *STRIX DELICATULUS*.

Several fine specimens obtained, not differing from the N. S. Wales examples.

7. *ATHENE*, sp.

A nestling, and a very interesting specimen, perhaps a young *A. strenua*, Gould. The whole of the head, neck, and all the under surface snow white; on the shafts of some of the down on the chest and abdomen dark brown stripes; under wing coverts white; tail and wings dark brown, with broad transverse bars of blackish; scapulars and wing coverts brown, tips whitish, and barred with whitish-brown, having a rufous tinge. Total length, 9 inches; wings, 6·3; tail, 3; tarsi, 1·1; bill, from forehead 1 inch, from nostril 0·5, from gape 1·1 inch; bill blackish; feet brown, nails black.

8. ? *PODARGUS PAPUENSIS*.

This bird is one of the numerous varieties of *P. papuensis*, or perhaps a new species. The general colour is dusky brown, with large white mottlings and spots, particularly on the scapulars, wing coverts, and all the under surface of the body, as well as a band of whitish spots over the eye, and extending over the ear coverts to the neck. The head above and the back are distinctly spotted with white.

9. *HIRUNDO FRETENSIS*, Gould.

This bird agrees with Mr. Gould's description, except that it has no trace of the *band of black* below the red on the chest; the tail feathers have a narrow white margin opposite the oval white spot on the inner web.

Total length, from tip of bill to centre tail feathers, 4·3 in.; bill, from gape, 0·55; width at base across gape, 0·45; wing, 4·2; tarsus, 0·35; tail, to tip of centre feathers, 1·5; to tip of outer feathers, 2·1.

This species may be at once recognised from *H. frontalis* by the size of the bill and the white spots on the inner webs of all except the centre two tail feathers.



10. *HYLOCHELIDON NIGRICANS*, Vieil.

11. *EURYSTOMUS PACIFICUS*, Lath.

12. *EURYSTOMUS CRASSIOTRIS*, Sclater.

Several specimens of this fine species were obtained. Its range of habitat extends from St. Christoval Island to New Britain, from both of which places the Museum has received specimens.

13. *MEROPS ORNATUS*.

Several specimens, showing the range of the widely distributed species.

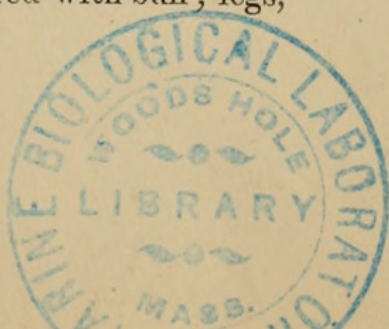
14. *DACELO LEACHII*, Gould.

*Dacelo intermedius*, *Salvadori*

15. *DACELO GAUDICHAUDI*, Quoy and Gaim.

16. *MELIDORA GOLDIEI*, nov. sp.

*Adult*.—Forehead, whole of the upper part of the head, and the occiput black, each feather margined at the tip with rich light greenish cobalt; a narrow line of buff-tipped feathers extends from the nostrils to over the eye, a similarly tinted line along the base of the bill to below the eye; lores black; ear coverts mostly black, their lower portions mingled with buff; a narrow white collar extends from the ear coverts round the neck, but is separated from the elongated occipital feathers by a narrow band of black, a few of the feathers of the white collar being tinged with buff and blotched on the sides with black; mantle, wing coverts, and scapularies black, each feather with a spot of rich golden buff at the tip; primaries dark brown; secondaries dark brown, with the outer webs margined with rich buff, and the inner series tipped also with buff; back, rump, and upper tail coverts rich blackish brown, each feather tipped with a spot of golden buff; tail rich, shining brown, margined and tipped with buff; under wing coverts white, those at the base of the primaries washed with buff; quills below dark brown; throat and all the under surface of the body and the under tail coverts white, a few feathers on the throat narrowly margined indistinctly with black, base of the feathers black; a few feathers on the sides of the chest tinged with buff; axillaries black, barred with buff; legs,





thighs, and flanks, white, spotted with buff, the basal portion of the feathers being black; under surface of the tail feathers brown, tipped with dull light buff; feet yellowish; bill black, the tips and margin of the lower mandible light horn colour.

Total length, 9·9 in.; bill, from forehead 1·9, from gape 2·3, from nostril 1·55; width across gape, 1·05; lower mandible, from gape, 2·2; wing, 4·7; tail, 3·7; tarsus, 0·7; middle toe, without nail, 0·8; its nail, 0·75; hind toe, 0·4.

This fine species of *Melidora*, of which genus only one species, *M. macrorhyncha*, (*Dacelo macrorhynchus*, *Less Voy. Coq.*) was hitherto known, was discovered by Mr. Goldie on the Laloki River, about ten miles inland from Port Moresby in New Guinea. As it was the only one met with during a sojourn at Port Moresby for nearly twelve months, it must be looked upon as an extremely local, or rare bird. It inhabits the dense parts of the forests. Mr. Goldie states that being the only specimen seen, he had no opportunity of making any observations on its habits.

17. HALCYON SANCTUS, *Vig. and Horsf.*

18. HALCYON MACLEAYI, *Jard. and Selby.*

19. SYMA TORTORO, *Less.*

One female only, showing that the bill in this species has no blackish or dark mark down the culmen, as is always found in the Australian closely allied species, *S. flavirostris*, *Gould.*

20. TANYSIPTERA GALATEA, *G. R. Gray.*

21. CINNYRIS FRENNATA,

*Nectarinia Australis*, *Gould.*

22. DICÆUM RUBROCORONATUM, *Sharpe.*

This beautiful little *Dicæum* was first obtained by Mr. Macleay's collectors during the cruise of the *Chevert* in 1875. Since then Messrs. Broadbent and Petterd have obtained it at Port Moresby. The species does not appear to be common, although generally distributed over the south-east portion of New Guinea.

23. PTILOTTIS NOTATA, *Gould.*

24. PTILOTTIS PLUMULUS, *Gould.*

25. PHILEMON NOVÆ-GUINÆ, *Mull and Schl.*



26. MELITHREPTUS ALBOGULARIS, *Gould*.

27. ORIOLUS STRIATUS, *Quoy and Gaim*.

28. SPHECOTHERES FLAVIVENTRIS, *Gould*.

Slightly smaller than the Cape York specimens.

29. POMATOSTOMUS ISIDORI, *Less*.

30. COLLURICINCLA (?) BRUNNEA, *Gould*.

31. EÖPSALTRIA (?) BRUNNEA, *sp. nov.*

Total length,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in.; wing, 3·3; tail, 2·5; tarsi (shot away); bill, 0·55.

All the upper surface rich brown, with an olive tinge, a little darker on the head; inner webs of wings and tail dark slaty brown, base of the quills whitish, under surface white; lores dark brown, a faint light brown line over the eye; throat tinged with ashy grey, becoming browner on the chest, which is crossed with a brownish band; sides of chest and flanks brown; abdomen, under tail,—and wing-coverts silky white; tail above brown, tinged with olive brown, like the wings, the shafts black, on the under surface of a clearer ashy brown, the shafts of the feathers being white.

This species in general appearance resembles *Pachycephala simplex* of *Gould*, but has no stripes on the breast or on the under surface; the bill is also longer.

32. MYIAGRA PLUMBEA.

33. PIEZORHYNCHUS NITIDUS, *Gould, var.* Slightly smaller than the Cape York and Queensland specimens.

34. ARSES (OPHRYZONE) TELESCOPHTHALMUS.

35. MONARCHA CARINATA, *Swains*.

Slightly smaller than N. S. Wales specimens.

36. RHIPIDURA ISURA, *Gould*. Having examined numerous examples of this flycatcher from Rockingham Bay, Cape York, New Guinea, New Ireland, and the Duke of York Island, I can find no differences that would warrant these being separated into distinct species. I believe the New Guinea birds have been distinguished under the name of *R. gularis*, *Müll.*, but I have seen no



description of this form under that name. The longitudinal striae on the chest band are more or less visible in all the specimens.

37. SAULOPROCTA TRICOLOR. Evidently the same as the New Ireland species *S. melaleuca*, of which it is a synonym; it differs very slightly from the Australian *Sauloprocta motacilloides*.

38. CAMPEPHAGA HUMERALIS, *Gould*.

39. CAMPEPHAGA JARDINII, *Rüppell*.

40. GRAUCALUS MELANOPS.

41. ARTAMUS LEUCOPYGIALIS, *Gould*.

42. DICRURUS CARBONARIUS, *Müll*. In plumage the same as the New Ireland species, except in the bill, which is shorter.

43. VANGA MENTALIS, *Salvad*. Very like *V. argentea*, but differing from Mr. Gould's description of that species in having the chin black, a patch of white at the base of the primaries extending and widening out considerably on to the seventh quill, and in having the *extreme base* of the tail white; the back is also black, and not grey as in *Vanga argenteus*.

Total length, 10 in.; bill, 1.2 in.; wing, 6 in.; tail, 4.5 in.; tarsus, 1.2.

44. VANGA QUOYI, *Less*.

45. GRACULA DUMONTII, *Less*.

46. CORVUS ORRU.

Quite the same as those received from New Britain.

47. GYMNOCORUS SENEX, *Less*.? These specimens differ considerably in depth of color from the plates in the *Voyage de la Coquille*, some birds being almost white, others of a dark brown.

48. DONACOLA NIGRICEPS, *sp. nov.* Closely allied to *Castaneo-thorax*, but having all the head and neck jet black, with a small hastate spot of whitish on the feathers of the crown; the upper tail coverts, also, are of brighter orange buff. On the whole, the Port Moresby birds are smaller, and of a much darker tint of chestnut on the breast; sides and flanks, barred with white, and tinged with chestnut; under tail coverts black. The young bird shot with an adult has the head and neck of an ashy tint, becoming brown on the chest, and deepening into black on the abdomen and under tail coverts; the back and wings are of a dark chocolate brown;



the rump, upper tail coverts, and two centre tail feathers of a rich orange ochre, deeper than in the adult; tail blackish brown, the outer webs of the inner feathers margined with the same tint as the upper tail coverts; thighs black; flanks blackish brown, tinged with chocolate; total length, 3.5 in.; wing, 1.9 in.; tail, 1.4 in.; tarsi, 0.6 in.; bill, 0.45.\*

*Adult*—Total length, 3.8 in.; wing, 2 in.; tail, 1.55 in.; tarsi, 0.6 in.; bill, 0.45.

49. PARADISEA RAGGIANA, *Sclater*.

Adult and young male, and two females.

50. CHLAMYDODERA CERVINIVENTRIS, *Gould*.

51. ? CALORNIS CANTOR.

*Calornis cantoroides*, (*G. R. Gray*). *Lamurotornis cantor* (*Mull.*?).

52. BUCEROS FLAVICOLLIS, *Vieill*.

The egg of this species is pure white, rather pointed at the thin end. In length 2.35 in., by 1.58 in breadth.

53. LORIUS (*Eos*) ARUENSIS.

? *Lorius Heteroclitus* (*Homb. and Jacq.*)

54. DOMICELLA (*Eos*) FUSCATUS.

*Eos torrida* of *G. R. Gray*.

A fine series of this interesting species, including crimson and yellow-banded varieties, and young. This species belongs to the same section as *Demicella cardinalis*.

55. ? CHALCOPSITTA RUBRIFRONS, *G. R. Gray*.

Some specimens have the occiput varied with deep crimson. It is altogether a smaller species than *Ch. scintillata*, with which it has been confounded. I believe S. Tommaso Salvadori has recently described this variety under the name of *Ch. cloropterus*.

56. ECLECTUS POLYCHLORUS, *Scop*.

57. TRICOGLOSSUS MASSÆNÆ.

58. CYCLOPSITTA SUAVISSIMUS, *Sclater*.

59. ? NASITERNA PUSIO, *Sclater*.

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\* This may eventually prove to be the young of another species.



Agrees with Dr. Selater's description of this species, but is a trifle smaller, and the blue band down the forehead is not so broad; the yellow tint on the side of the head is brighter.

60. *CACATUA GALERITA*.

61. *MICROGLOSSUM ATERRIMUM*, *Gm.*

Some specimens agreeing with those from Cape York have the crest feathers much more narrow; others again, having the bill larger and the culmen wider, have the plumes of the crest broader. The young have the feathers of the abdomen narrowly margined with yellow, in some forming a band across the body.

62. *CENTROPUS MELANURUS*, *Gould.*

Very much smaller and darker in plumage than the Cape York specimens. This is the *Polophilus nigricans* of Salvadori.

63. *CUCULUS INSUPERATUS*, *Gould. ?*

64. *SCYTHROPS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ*.

65. *PTILINOPUS CORONULATUS*, *G. R. Gray.*

66. *PTILOPUS IOZONUS*, *G. R. Gray.*

67. *CARPOPHAGA PUELLA*, *Less.*

68. *CARPOPHAGA PINON*, *Quoy and Gaim.*

69. *CARPOPHAGA MULLERI*, *Temm.*

70. *CARPOPHAGA SPILORRHOA*, *G. R. Gray.*

71. *GEOPELIA HUMERALIS*.

72. *GEOPELIA PLACIDA*, *Gould.*

73. *CHALCOPHAPS LONGIROSTRIS*, *Gould.*

74. *GOURA D'ALBERTISI*, *Salvadori.*

Several fine specimens, showing the same characteristic white markings of the greater wing coverts.

75. *MEGAPODIUS DUPERREYI*, *Less.*

76. *MEGAPODIUS CUVIERI*, *Less.*

This is undoubtedly a *Megapodius*, and not a *Talegalla*. The egg resembles that of *M. tumulus*, but is much larger, being 3.9 in. in length, 2.48 in breadth, and of a rich salmon-ochre colour.

77. *SYNOICUS CERVINUS*, *Gould.*

78. *NUMENIUS UROPYGIALIS*, *Gould.*

79. *ACTILIS EMPUSA*, *L.*

80. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA*, *Cuv.*



One specimen, slightly smaller than the European examples, and not so broadly banded with black in front and on the head.

81. GALLINULA RUFICRISSA, *Gould*.

82. PORPHYRIO MELANOPTERUS, *Temm*.

83. BUTOROIDES JAVANICA.

84. HERODIAS IMMACULATA, *Gould*.

85. TADORNA RAJAH, *Less*.

86. DENDROCYGNA GUTTULATA, *Forster*.

87. PLOTUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ.

Differs but little from the New South Wales examples.

In addition to the Birds obtained, Mr. GOLDIE brought with him a few Mammals and Reptiles, the most conspicuous of which are:—

1. MACROPUS (HALMATURUS ?) CRASSIPES.

*Halmaturus crassipes, mihi*, in Proc. Linn. Soc., N.S.W., part 2, page 162.

A fine series of both adults and young.

2. BELIDEUS ARIEL.

3. PERAMELES. SP.

? *Perameles Novæ-Guinæe*.

4. CUSCUS CHRYSORRHOS, *Temm.*, var. *Goldiei*.

Two very fine specimens, but, unfortunately, both females; the broad black band round the loins and bright rusty red rump and tail show very conspicuously. Nose and a stripe down the face rufous; orbit surrounded by a conspicuous black ring.

Total length, *without tail*, 26½ in.; tail, 17 in.; head, 4 in. This may eventually prove to be quite a distinct species; at present I prefer to place it merely as a large variety of *C. chrysorrhos*.

5. HYDROSAURUS. SP.

A fine reptile, very similar to the one found in the Solomon Islands. Black above, thickly dotted with bright yellow; below yellowish.

Length, 4 ft. 3 in., with the tail; tail, 2 ft. 3 in.; head, 3·5 in.





Ramsay, Edward Pearson. 1877. "Notes on a collection of birds from Port Moresby; with descriptions of some new species." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 1, 386–395. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.12426>.

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