



MELIDORA MACRORHINA.

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(HOOK-BILLED KINGFISHER.)

<i>Dacelo macrorhinus</i>	. . .	Less. Voy. Coq. I, p. 692, pl. 31 bis, fig. 2 (1826).
" "	. . .	Gray, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 154.
<i>Melidora euphrosiæ</i>	. . .	Less. Traité d'Orn. p. 249 (1831).
" "	. . .	Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. I, p. 153 (1850).
" "	. . .	Bonap. Consp. Vol. Anis. p. 9 (1854).
<i>Melidora euphrasiæ</i>	. . .	Reich. Handb. <i>Alced.</i> p. 41, t. ccccxviii, fig. 3166-67 (1851).
<i>Melidora macrorhina</i>	. . .	Slater, Proc. Linn. Soc. II, p. 156 (1858).
<i>Melidora euphrosine</i>	. . .	Rosenb. Journ. f. Orn, 1864, p. 117.
<i>Dacelo macrorhynchus</i>	. . .	Gray, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 189.
<i>Dacelo macrorhina</i>	. . .	Schl. Mus. Pays Bas. <i>Alced.</i> p. 22 (1863).
" "	. . .	Schl. Vog. Ned. Ind. <i>Alced.</i> pp. 17. 51, pl. 4 (1864).

M. pileo saturatè brunneo, maculis apicalibus ochraceis: strigâ angustâ ab oculo pileum circumdante, lætè cyaneâ: dorso cum scapularibus et tectricibus alarum saturatè brunneis latè ochraceo maculatis: subtus albida, rufo-tincta.

Hab. in Novâ Guineâ.

Head and hinder part of the neck deep brown, each feather tipped with a small spot of greenish-ochre; cheeks and ear-coverts black; a spot in front of the eye and a stripe from the base of the lower mandible to the ear-coverts, ochre; a narrow band of bright blue from the eye, encircling the head; feathers of the nape and back of the neck brown tipped with rufous; back, scapularies and wing-coverts dark brown, the tips of each feather deep greenish ochre; wing-feathers brownish, the inner web light yellowish from the base, some of the primaries edged and the secondaries tipped with greenish ochre; under surface of the body whitish tinged with rufous, especially on the throat and sides of the neck; upper mandible black, lower mandible yellowish; feet olive brown. Total length 11 inches, of bill from front 1.6, from gape 2.0, wing 4.7, tail 3.8, tarsus 0.6, middle toe 0.75, hind toe 0.3.

Hab. Dorey, New Guinea (*Lesson, Wallace*).

This remarkable Kingfisher, which I consider to be the extreme type of the subfamily *Daceloninae*, is one of the rarest birds in European Museums. It has as yet only been observed in the neighbourhood of Dorey in New Guinea. There the original specimen was obtained by Lesson and there Mr. Wallace also met with it. Lesson states that it is an inhabitant of the forests in the neighbourhood of that harbour.

When we know more of the habits and economy of this rare species, I believe we shall find it to be strictly a forest bird, living amidst the thickest jungle, like *Cittura cyanotis*, which in external structure is closely allied to it. Mr. Wallace concurs in my opinion, that the food of the present species will be found chiefly to consist of lizards and crustacea, for the capture of which its bill is admirably adapted.

Herr G. von Rosenberg in his "Beitrag zur Ornithologie von Neu Guinea" gives the range of this species as "Salawati, New Guinea, and North Australia." With regard to the birds being met with in the two former localities, no one ought to be better informed on this subject than Herr von Rosenberg, but I believe I am right in affirming that the only specimens at present in Europe were collected in the neighbourhood of Havre Dorey, and I think Herr von Rosenberg must have been misinformed as to its having been found in Australia.

The left hand figure in the plate represents a female bird in Mr. Wallace's collection and from this specimen the description and measurements are taken. The right hand figure is drawn from the only example in the Leiden Museum, and exactly agrees with the bird figured by Lesson in the "Atlas" to the "Voyage of the Coquille." Whether the spotted plumage exhibited by Mr. Wallace's specimen is the sign of immaturity or sexual distinction I am unable to decide.