

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Ramsay, E. P., 1890. Report on a zoological collection from the Solomon Islands. Part I. Mammalia. Aves. *Records of the Australian Museum* 1(1): 3–5. [31 March 1890].

doi:10.3853/j.0067-1975.1.1890.1214

ISSN 0067-1975

Published by the Australian Museum, Sydney

nature culture **discover**

Australian Museum science is freely accessible online at
<http://publications.australianmuseum.net.au>
6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia



REPORT ON A ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION FROM
THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

PART I.

BY E. P. RAMSAY.

DURING the month of November, 1889, the Museum acquired by purchase a mixed Zoological Collection from the Solomon Islands, in which the species mentioned below are represented.

Howla Island, on which the collection was made, belongs to the Shortland Group, and therefore to the western section of the Archipelago, to the fauna of which, as was to be expected, we find that with few exceptions the terrestrial vertebrates belong.* The exceptions referred to are *Enygrus bibroni*, *Dendrophis calligaster*, and *Hyla macrops*.

The following list conveys a general idea of the Collection :—

Mammalia.

CYNOXYCTERIS BRACHYOTIS, *Dobson*. Two adult specimens.

CEPHALOTES PERONI, *Geoffr.* Four specimens.

PHYLLORHINA DIADEMA, *Geoffr.* Seven specimens.

Aves.

THE specimens received are represented by seven species, which, although only one is new to science, may be enumerated to show the range of the species throughout the group. All were obtained from the Island of Howla.

HALCYON LEUCOPYGIALIS, *Verr.*

This exceedingly beautiful and rare species has been hitherto, so far as I am aware, only recorded from the Island of Gaudalcanar (see Notes on the Zoology of the Solomon Islands, in the P.L.S., N.S.W., (1) iv. p. 67 (1879), where it was re-discovered by Mr. James Cockerell, Junr., in 1878.

*This conclusion is principally based on the excellent papers of Messrs. Thomas and Boulenger (P.Z.S., 1887-8).

HALCYON ALBICILLA, *Cuv.*

This remarkable species has a wide range all over the Solomon Group, South-East of New Guinea, New Britain, New Ireland, and the Duke of York Islands.

EDOLHISOMA SALOMONENSIS, *Ramsay.*

Graucalus salomonensis, Ramsay, P.L.S., N.S.W., (1) iv p. 314 ;
id. (1) vii. p. 22 (1882), sp. 20.

Graucalus pusillus, Ramsay, P.L.S., N.S.W., (1) iv. p. 71.
(1879).

An interesting species allied to *Graucalus swainsoni*, var. *lineatus*.

SAULOPROCTA TRICOLOR, *Vicill. ; Ramsay, P.L.S., N.S.W., (1)*
iv. p. 82 (1879).

This is a large form of the well known Australian species, *S. motacilloides* ; the young just from the nest resemble the adults, but have the feathers of the shoulders, upper wing-coverts and scapulars tipped with dull brown.

POMAREA LEUCOPHTHALMUS, *sp. nov.*

The present species of *Pomarea* I believe to be undescribed, as I have not been able to find any description with which it agrees. It comes near *Pomarea castaneiventris* (Verr.), but is a slightly larger bird.

Head, neck, throat, chest, and all the upper surface shiny black, the feathers of the throat in the female (?) elongated, under surface of the wings and tail feathers dark brown, the inner margins of the primaries below dull ashy-white, abdomen, under wing- and tail-coverts dark chestnut, a conspicuous crescent-shaped spot of white in front of the eye of the female (♀ ?) ; in the male (?) this spot is light *rufous*, but may have been stained by the spirits in which the specimens were preserved ; bill black, margins of the mandibles horn-white, legs and feet black. Total length 6.6 – 6.8 inches, wings 5.25 – 5.5 inches, tail 3 inches, tarsus 0.7 – 0.81 inch, bill from forehead 0.7 – 0.75 inch, from nostril 0.5 inch, height at nostril 0.25 – 0.3 inch, width at nostril 0.25 – 0.3 inch.

This species differs from *Pomarea castaneiventris* (Verr.) in having a crescent-shaped white mark on the lores in front of the eye, the tail and wings above shining blue-black, the under surface blackish-brown, with the margins of the quills shading into ashy white on their inner webs, there is also a greater extent of black on the sides of the chest. In one specimen ♀ there is just the slightest tip of white on some of the outer tail feathers, and the chestnut or chocolate tint of the under surface is darker and of a