ÆLURŒDUS MACULOSUS, *Ramsay.*

93.

Queensland Cat-bird.

Ælurœdus maculosus, Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1874, p. 601.—Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vi. p. 385 (1881).—Cairn & Grant, Rec. Austr. Mus. i. p. 31 (1892).—North, t. c. p. 112 (1892).

Ailurœdus maculosus, Gould, Birds of New Guinea, i. pl. 38 (1875).—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. ii. p. 187 (1878).—Id. Tab. List Austr. B. p. 11 (1888).—North, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. (2) i. p. 1156 (1887).—Id. op. cit. iii. p. 147 (1889).—Id. Nests & Eggs Austr. B. p. 177 (1889).

This species agrees with *Æ. melanotis* and *Æ. arfakianus* in having the crown of the head mottled, the colour in this case being black spotted with olive-brown, while there is also a black patch on the ear-coverts and another on the chin.

Mr. A. J. North has given the following good account of this species in 'Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds':—

"This bird is a native of the dense scrubs that are to be found in the neighbourhood of Rockingham Bay, and the Johnstone, Russell, and Mulgrave Rivers in Tropical Queensland. They congregate in small flocks on the palms and fig-trees, from which they obtain their food. During a recent excursion to the Ballenden-Ker Ranges, Messrs. E. J. Cairn and Robert Grant, collecting on behalf of the Trustees of the Australian Museum, succeeded in obtaining, amongst others, a fine series of these birds in different stages of plumage; and, besides finding several nests with young birds, they were fortunate in obtaining, although very late in the season, a nest containing eggs. The nest and eggs in question were found on December 2nd, 1887, in the fork of a sapling about seven feet from the ground, on the Herberton road, at a distance of thirty-two miles from Cairns. The nest is a neat bowl-shaped structure, composed of long twigs and leaves of a *Tristania*, lined inside with twigs and the dried wiry stems of a climbing plant; on the outside several nearly perfect leaves of the *Tristania* are worked in, and partially obscure one side of the nest. Exterior diameter seven inches, by four inches and a half in depth; interior diameter four inches and three-quarters, by two inches and a half in depth. Eggs two in number for a sitting, nearly true ovals in form, tapering but slightly at one end, of a uniform creamy-white; the shell is thin, the surface being smooth and slightly glossy. (A) 1·67×1·11; (B) 1·63×1·1 inch. Both parent birds were procured at the time of taking the eggs, which were in a very advanced state of incubation."

Adult. General colour above green; the wing-coverts like the back, with obscure yellowish spots at the ends of the median and greater coverts; quills dusky blackish, externally green like the back; the primaries bluish on their outer webs, the innermost secondaries tipped with a spot of yellowish white; tail-feathers green, dusky blackish on the inner web, all but the two centre ones barred along the tip with white; head ochreous brown, mottled all over with blackish edges to the feathers; the feathers of the hind-neck and mantle greenish, mottled with a spot of pale ochreous or yellowish white; lores bluish white tinged with yellow; feathers above and below the eye whitish, the former having blackish tips to some of the feathers; ear-coverts black, with a streak of whity brown tinged with green along the upper edge; chin and a spot at the base of the cheeks black; remainder of cheeks yellowish white, the feathers mottled with dusky-brown tips; sides of neck ashy, tinged with green and mottled with brown edges; behind the ear-coverts and on the lower neck a whitish shade, forming an indistinct patch; throat ashy, mottled with greenish-brown edges to the feathers; remainder of under surface spotted, the feathers having a large ovate mark of white in the centre, and being broadly edged with greenish brown, these margins less distinct on the abdomen, which is consequently whiter; thighs ashy, washed with green, with a sub-terminal bar of yellow; under wing-coverts dusky, tipped with yellowish white forming a faint bar; axillaries green, with yellowish tips; edge of wing yellow; quills dusky below, whitish towards the base of the inner web. Total length 11 inches, culmen 1·3, wing 5·9, tail 4·1, tarsus 1·85.

The description is taken from a specimen in the British Museum, and the Plate represents two figures of an adult bird, together with the nest. For the opportunity of figuring this I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. A. J. North, who sent me an enlarged photograph of it.