ÆLURŒDUS MELANOCEPHALUS, *Ramsay.*

Black-naped Cat-bird.

Ælurœdus melanocephalus, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. viii. p. 25 (1883).—Salvad. Ibis, 1884, p. 354.—Finsch u. Meyer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. ii. p. 394 (1885).—Iid. Ibis, 1886, p. 258.—D'Hamonv. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1886, p. 511.—Sharpe, in Gould's Birds of New Guinea, i. pl. 42 (1888).—Salvad. Agg. Orn. Papuasia, ii. p. 166 (1890).—Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, iv. p. xiv (1894).—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. (2) xvi. p. 114 (1896).

This is the representative of *Ælurœdus melanotis* in South-eastern New Guinea, where it inhabits the Owen Stanley Mountains. It has occurred in Mr. Goldie's collections from the Astrolabe Range, and the late Carl Hunstein procured specimens in the Horse-shoe Range, while Dr. H. O. Forbes met with it in the Sogeri District, and Dr. Loria at Moroka.

Æ. melanocephalus belongs to the same section of the genus *Ælurœdus* as *Æ. melanotis* and *Æ. arfakiarus*, and is very closely allied to the former, from which it differs in the greater amount of black on the sides of the face, and in the chin, lores, and the fore part of cheeks being black. The crown of the head is blacker, and the ovate spots of buff are fewer in number and consequently much more distinct. The breast and abdomen are of a deeper ochre colour, and the dusky margins to the feathers are much less pronounced. The light spots on the wing-coverts are apparently variable in extent, and are sometimes absent altogether. Thus Dr. Meyer described the wing-coverts as uniform, and Count Salvadori has drawn attention to this apparent discrepancy between Dr. Meyer's statement and the bird figured by me in Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea.' He has, however, recently found the same differences in specimens sent by Dr. Loria, and in the two examples in the British Museum the size of the spots on the wing-coverts varies considerably. The fact that my description and figure given in the above-mentioned work did not entirely correspond, as Count Salvadori has pointed out, is due to the fact that the specimen figured (from Dr. Forbes's collection) is not the one described in the text, which is from Hunstein's collection.

Adult male. General colour above grass-green, the upper tail-coverts slightly washed with lighter green; the upper mantle varied with ovate spots of ochreous buff in the centre of the feathers; wing-coverts like the back, the median and greater coverts and the bastard-wing faintly tipped with ashy ochreous buff; primary-coverts and quills externally green like the back, the primaries washed with bluish on the outer web; the secondaries tipped with ochreous white, less distinct on the primaries; tail-feathers dark green on the outer web, black internally, all the feathers tipped with white, increasing in extent towards the outer ones; crown of head black, with ovate spots of ochreous buff, smaller on the forehead and nape, the latter being almost entirely black; hind-neck ochreous buff, the feathers margined with black; lores black, surmounted by a line of ochreous-buff-spotted feathers; feathers round eye and ear-coverts black, with a line of buff-spotted feathers below the eye; behind the ear-coverts a line of whitish down the sides of the neck; fore part of cheeks black, as well as the chin; throat and sides of neck ochreous buff, mottled with black edges to the feathers; fore-neck and remainder of under surface of body rufescent ochre, with greenish edges on the feathers of the chest; the breast and abdomen more uniform; all the feathers with more or less distinct white shaft-lines; sides of body and flanks like the breast, and washed with greenish; thighs dull greenish; under tail-coverts like the abdomen, with white shaft-lines; under wing-coverts and axillaries ashy tipped with whitish; quills below dusky, ashy along the inner edge: "bill greenish white; feet greyish green; iris hazel" (*L. Loria*). Total length 11·5 inches, culmen 1·3, wing 5·7, tail 4·6, tarsus 1·7.

The figure in the Plate represents an adult male of the natural size, drawn from a specimen collected by Dr. H. O. Forbes.