ÆLURŒDUS ARFAKIANUS, *Meyer.*

Arfak Mountain Cat-bird.

? *Ptilonorhynchus melanotis* (nec Gray), Rosenb. Nat. Tijdschr. Nederl. Ind. xxv. p. 236 (1863, pt.: teste Salvadori).—Id. J. f. O. 1864, p. 122 (pt.).

Ptilorhynchus melanotis, pt. (nec Gray), Schlegel, Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk. iv. p. 51 (1871).

Ælurœdus melanotis (nec Gray), Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1873, p. 697.—Elliot, Monogr. Parad., Intr. p. xxii (1873, pt.).—Sclater, Ibis, 1874, p. 416.

Ailurœdus arfakianus, Meyer, Sitz. k. Akad. Wissensch. Wien, lxix. p. 82 (1874).—Sclater, Ibis, 1874, p. 416.—Gould, B. New Guinea, i. pl. 40 (1875).—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. ix. p. 193 (1876), x. p. 151 (1877).—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1878, p. 99.—D'Albert. Nuova Guinea, p. 581 (1880).

Ptilorhynchus arfakianus, Giebel, Thes. Orn. iii. p. 370 (1877).

Ptilonorhynchus arfakianus, Rosenb. Malay. Arch. p. 554 (1879).—Musschenbr. Dagboek, pp. 212, 241 (1883).—Rosenb. Mitth. orn. Ver. Wien, 1885, p. 54.

Ælurœdus arfakianus, Salvad. Orn. Papuasia, p. 673 (1881).—Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vi. p. 384 (1881).—D'Hamonv. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1886, p. 511.—Salvad. Agg. Orn. Papuasia, ii. p. 166 (1890).

This is a small form of *Æ. melanotis* of Gray, which inhabits the Aru Islands and the Fly River in South-eastern New Guinea. The Arfak Cat-bird is, however, a slightly smaller bird than *Æ. melanotis*, with a somewhat blacker head and a black band on the nape. The throat also appears blacker than in the Aru bird, by reason of the broader black margins to the feathers.

All the specimens at present known have come from the Arfak Mountains, where they have been found by D'Albertis, Beccari, and the hunters employed by Dr. A. B. Meyer and the late Mr. Bruijn. Count Salvadori had eight specimens before him when he wrote his 'Ornitologia della Papuasia,' and he considers the species to be quite distinct from the Black-cheeked Cat-bird from Aru. Some of the females had the fore-neck less black than in the males, and in all his series the fulvous spots on the crown varied considerably in size, but in one female bird they were especially small and of a reddish-buff colour. A very young female had all the feathers on the lower parts of a soft texture and a brown colour, the upper parts, wings, and tail being of the same colour as in the adult birds.

All references to *Æ. melanotis* from New Guinea, excepting from the Fly River district, doubtless refer to *Æ. arfakianus*.

Professor Schlegel mentions some specimens of a Cat-bird, collected by Hoedt in the Island of Mysol, and refers them to *Æ. melanotis*, but Count Salvadori considers that they are more likely to belong to *Æ. arfakianus* or to an undescribed species.

The Plate represents the specimen procured by D'Albertis in the Arfak Mountains. It is the same one which he lent to the late Mr. Gould for illustration in the 'Birds of New Guinea.'