ÆLURŒDUS MELANOTIS (*Gray*).

Black-cheeked Cat-bird.

Ptilonorhynchus melanotis, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, pp. 181, 194.—Id. Cat. B. New Guin. pp. 37, 59 (1859).—Id. P. Z. S. 1861, p. 436; Rosenb. Nat. Tijdschr. Nederl. Ind. xxv. p. 236 (1863, pt.).—Id. J. f. O. 1864, p. 122 (pt.).—Finsch, Neu-Guinea, p. 173 (1865).—Rosenb. Reis naar Zuidoostereil. p. 47 (1867).—Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 294, no. 4338 (1869).—Pelz. Verh. k.-k. zool.-bot. Gesellsch. 1872, p. 428.—Musschenbr. Dagboek, pp. 212, 241 (1883).—Rosenb. Mitth. orn. Ver. Wien, 1885, p. 54.

Ptilorhynchus melanotis, Schl. Mus. Pays-Bas, Coraces, p. 118 (1867).—Id. Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk. iv. p. 51 (1871, pt.).

Ailurœdus melanotis, Meyer, Sitzb. k. Akad. d. Wissensch. lxix. pp. 82, 83 (1874).—Gould, B. New Guinea, i. pl. 39 (1875).

Ælurœdus melanotis, Elliot, Monogr. Parad. pl. 35 (1873).—Id. Introd. Monogr. Parad. p. xxii (1873, pt.).—Scl. Ibis, 1874, p. 416.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Gen. ix. p. 193 (1876).—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1878, p. 99.—D'Alb. & Salvad. Ann. Mus. Gen. xiv. p. 114 (1879).—D'Alb. Nuova Guin. p. 588 (1880).—Salvad. Orn. Papuasia, ii. p. 671 (1881).—Id. Voy. 'Challenger,' Birds, p. 82 (1881).—Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vi. p. 383 (1881).—Meyer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. p. 293 (1884).—Salvad. Agg. Orn. Papuasia, ii. p. 166 (1890).

This is the largest of the Cat-birds with white tips to the tail. It was discovered in the Aru Islands by Dr. Wallace during his expedition to the Malay Archipelago, and has since been discovered by Baron von Rosenberg, Mr. Hoedt, and Dr. Beccari in most of the islands of the Aru group—such as Wokan, Trangan, and Maikor; D'Albertis also collected several specimens on the Fly River, in May and June. It is therefore one of the many species in Southern New Guinea which prove the relationship between the avifauna of the southern portion of the great Papuan Island and that of the Aru Archipelago.

Of the habits of this Cat-bird we know nothing. D'Albertis states that it feeds on fruit, and he found in the stomach the same seeds as those devoured by *Paradisea novæ-guineæ*, *Ptilorhis intercedens*, and *Cicinnurus regius*.

Count Salvadori states that the females are a little smaller than the males and have the ochreous colour of the lower parts less decided, while the margins of the feathers of the upper part of the breast are duller and show less of a green shade. The reddish colour on the feathers of the head and neck, which is sometimes met with, appears to Salvadori to be a sign of youth. D'Albertis describes the colour of the soft parts as follows:—"Bill ashy whitish; feet ashy; iris chestnut or coppery red."

Adult male (type of species). General colour above bright grass-green, slightly shaded with blue on the wing-coverts and primaries; the median and greater wing-coverts and the secondaries tipped with buffy white; quills dull brown on the inner webs; tail dull grass-green, blackish on the inner webs of the outer feathers, all the feathers rather broadly tipped with white; head and neck fulvous, mottled with black, the feathers being mostly of the latter colour, with a large oval spot of fulvous near the tip, very much larger on the hinder neck; lores and a line of feathers above and below the eye buffy whitish; behind the eye a bare patch; ear-coverts black; rest of the sides of the face buffy white, barred with narrow crescentic cross lines of black; the fore-neck and chest yellowish white, all the feathers dark at base and distinctly edged with black, giving a very strongly mottled appearance; rest of under surface of body yellowish buff, slightly inclining to fawn-buff, the feathers with narrow whitish shaft-lines, the breast mottled with sub-terminal cross lines of blackish; sides of body washed with green, with rather broad mesial streaks of white on the flank-feathers; under wing-coverts yellowish buff, tinged with green along the edge of the wing, many of the abdominal plumes, when lifted, exhibiting a bluish shade underneath, this being also seen on the lower surface of the tail. Total length 12·5 inches, culmen 1·6, wing 6·65, tail 5·1, tarsus 1·85.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but more distinctly greenish underneath; each feather with a terminal spot of brighter green, the lower flanks washed with bluish green; spots on secondaries very large and distinct; mantle varied with arrow-shaped central markings of yellowish buff to all the feathers. Total length 13·3 inches, culmen 1·45, wing 6·1, tail 5·2, tarsus 1·8.

The figures in the Plate are taken from specimens in the Gould collection, now in the British Museum.