DICÆUM PRYERI, Sharpe.

Pryer's Dicæum.

Dicæum pryeri, Sharpe, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1881, p. 795.

Mr. Pryer and his brother are both known for their labours in the cause of ornithology, both of them being excellent observers and collectors. Mr. H. Pryer has done very good work in Japan, while Mr. W. B. Pryer is now collecting in North-eastern Borneo, in a part of the country whence no previous collection has been forwarded. The province of Sandakan forms part of the territory now belonging to the North-Borneo Company; and we hear of several naturalists who have joined the staff, who are likely to make us well acquainted with the ornithology of this part of Borneo. To Mr. Pryer, however, belongs the credit of having sent home the first consignment of bird-skins from that part of the world; and the present interesting little species is one of the novelties which have rewarded his efforts.

Mr. Bowdler Sharpe gives the following diagnosis of the species:—

"Similar to D. nigrimentum of Salvadori, but distinguished by the whole of the throat as well as the sides of the neck and sides of body black. Total length 2.9 inches, culmen 0.4, wing 1.85, tail 1.0, tarsus 0.45."

He also gives the accompanying note:—"The first collection sent by Mr. Pryer contained a single specimen of this Dicaum; it appeared to be quite different from D. nigrimentum, which is in the collection of the British Museum. Subsequently Mr. Pryer forwarded some more adult males, in his second and third consignments; and as all of these agree in having the whole of the throat black, I have no doubt that it is a good species."

The figure in the Plate has been drawn from the typical specimen, which is a male bird. The female is at present unknown.

[R. B. S.]