DICÆUM DORSALE, Sharpe.

Yellow-throated Dicæum.

Dicæum dorsale, Sharpe, 'Nature,' August, 1876, p. 298.—Id. Transactions of the Linnean Society, 2nd series, Zoology, vol. i. part 5.

The Malayan archipelago is the metropolis of the *Diceidæ*, where nearly every island seems to posses as peculiar species; and in the Philippine Islands occur the representatives of a complete section of the abovenamed family. These might be called the "black-and-white" Flower-peckers; and the two beautiful birds already figured in the present work on the Plate of *D. retrocinctum* are characteristic species of this section. Since that time Dr. Steere has discovered during his visit to the Philippines two more species—*D. hæmatostictum*, Sharpe, from Guimaras and Negros, and *D. hypoleucum*, Sharpe, from Basilan and Malamaui; so that we now know of four of these pied *Diceidæ* in the above-named archipelago. I mention these birds, as I am anxious to correct an error into which I was led when treating of *D. retrocinctum* in the present work. I figured on the Plate of the latter species two birds which I considered might be the sexes of one and the same species, although I hinted that there might be two birds; and this seems to be the case, as both Mr. Sharpe and Count Salvadori have examined the question, and regard the supposed female of *D. retrocinctum* as the species long ago described as *D. papuense* by Gmelin.

The most characteristic representative of this group is *D. trigonostigma*, a species widely spread over the Indo-Malayan subregion, and occurring plentifully in Borneo; it was also found by Dr. Steere in Negros. The present species, called by Mr. Sharpe *dorsale* on account of the red spot on the back, is from the island of Panay, where, according to Dr. Steere, it was "shot in the highest part of the island, in the remains of the virgin forest on the highest range of the mountains west of Ilo Ilo." It is easily distinguished from *D. trigonostigma* by the orange-red colour of the back being confined to the mantle instead of the whole back being yellow, and also by its entirely yellow throat.

The following is a translation of Mr. Sharpe's original description:—

Above bright slaty-grey, the head rather brighter; interscapulary region orange-red; wing-coverts uniform with the back, the outer ones edged with olive; quills blackish, externally margined with the same colour as the back, a few of the secondaries edged with olive, the innermost uniform with the back; upper tail-coverts slaty grey; tail black, the feathers margined with slate-colour; lores black; sides of the face dark slate-colour; below very bright orange, the throat and lower abdomen yellow; thighs inwardly grey, externally yellow; bill blackish, the lower mandible paler towards the base; feet dark brown. Total length 3·5 inches, culmen ·5, wing 1·9, tail 1·05, tarsus ·55.

The female is olive-green above, the rump rather more yellow; sides of face uniform with the head; below bright yellow, the breast and under wing-coverts more richly coloured. Total length 3.7 inches, culmen .5, wing 1.9, tail .9, tarsus .55.

The figures are taken from the typical birds procured by Dr. Steere in Panay, and kindly lent to me by him before his return to America.