

## DICÆUM RETROCINCTUM, *Gould.*

### Red-collared Dicæum.

*Dicæum retrocinctum*, Gould, Ann. Nat. Hist. 1872, 4th series, vol. x. p. 114.

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I VERY much regret that I can offer to my ornithological readers no precise information respecting the habits and economy of this little bird. The specimens, apparently male and female, have been in my collection for a great number of years, and all I know about them is that I purchased them from a collection of birds said to have been obtained in the Philippine Islands. I have not been able to find any published description of the species; but if I was wrong in characterizing it as new, I shall doubtless soon be set right by some of my contemporaries, as it is a bird of such very marked coloration. I may state, however, that before describing it I showed the species to Lord Walden, our best authority on Philippine ornithology, and compared it with the series in the British Museum.

I reproduce my original description; but a glance at the Plate will give the best idea of the species. Further than this I can say nothing respecting it.

“*Male* (from Manilla).—Head, neck, back, wing-coverts, tail, sides and centre of the throat, and a broad stripe down the centre of the breast steel or bluish black; a semicollar at the base of the neck behind, a small stripe down the chin, and a broader and longer stripe down the centre of the abdomen scarlet; under tail-coverts white; wings slaty black; sides of the chest and the abdomen white, passing into silvery grey on the flanks; bill black, lighter at the base; feet apparently dark brown.

“Total length  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bill  $\frac{5}{8}$ , wing 2, tail  $\frac{3}{4}$ , tarsi  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

“*Female?* (from Mindanao).—Like the male on the upper surface, but wanting the red at the base of the neck; chin and throat white; remainder of the under surface grey, fading into white on the abdomen, down the centre of which is a stripe of scarlet, as in the opposite sex; under tail-coverts white.

“Size the same as that of the male.”

The figures on the Plate are those of two males and a female (?), of the size of life.

It is just possible that the figures on the accompanying Plate may represent two species; if so, the name *retrocinctum* will apply to the collared specimens only.