

CARPOPHAGA VAN-WYCKII, *Cass.*

Van Wyck's Fruit-Pigeon.

Carpophaga van-wyckii, Cass. Proc. Acad. Philad. 1862, p. 320.—Pelz. Novara Reis., Vög. p. 107 (1865).—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. ix. p. 200, no. 41 (1876).—Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1877, p. 109; 1878, pp. 289, 671.—Salvad. Monogr. Sottogen. *Globicera*, p. 5 (1878).—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. iii. p. 292 (1878), iv. pp. 73, 101 (1879).—Salvad. Ibis, 1879, p. 326.—Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1879, pp. 218, 447, 451.—Layard, Ibis, 1880, pp. 297, 301.—Salvad. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, iii. p. 87 (1882).

Globicera vanwyckii, Gray, Hand-list of Birds, ii. p. 229, sp. 9184 (1870).

Carpophaga wickei, Giebel, Thes. Orn. i. p. 588 (1872).

Carpophaga microcera, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. i. p. 372 (1876).

Carpophaga rhodinolæma, Finsch (nec Sclater), Proc. Zool. Soc. 1879, p. 13.

THE greatest uncertainty has long prevailed regarding the distinctness of this species from *C. pistrinaria* of the Solomon Islands. *C. van-wyckii* was discovered by Lieut. Van Wyck, of the United States Navy, in New Ireland, and specimens have more recently been obtained in Duke of York Island by the Rev. G. Brown and Dr. Kleinschmidt, as well as in Pigeon Island, New Britain, and Palakura, by Mr. L. C. Layard. Mr. E. P. Ramsay also records it from Deboyne Island and Bramble Haven in the Louisiade Group and even from South Cape in South-eastern New Guinea. It will be seen, therefore, that its range is somewhat extensive, and there would be nothing surprising in the fact that the Solomon Island *Carpophaga* was precisely identical; and that this is the case has been suggested by Count Salvadori. We have ourselves compared a specimen from New Britain with one from San Christoval, and we find that, although the resemblance is close, there are sufficient characters to recognize *C. van-wyckii* from *C. pistrinaria*. The difference consists in the dusky grey character of the upper plumage in *C. pistrinaria*, which has little or no green gloss, while the hind neck and mantle are scarcely distinguishable from the rest of the back. In *C. van-wyckii* the vinous grey hind neck and mantle contrast strongly with the rest of the back, which has a very distinct gloss of bronzy green.

The following is a description of an adult female, taken from a New Britain specimen in the British Museum:—

Adult female. General colour above pale bronzy green, with a slight shade of purplish blue on the rump and upper tail-coverts; lesser wing-coverts pale bronzy green; primary-coverts and quills blackish, the primaries ashy grey externally, glossy green at the ends; secondaries also externally grey, but also glossed with green, the innermost like the back; tail-feathers black, with a purple gloss, green on the outer edges; crown of head delicate pearly grey; hind neck and mantle pearly grey with a strong vinaceous tinge, especially on the sides of the neck, the grey of the mantle merging into the green of the back; base of forehead dull white; lores pearly grey, fading into pale vinous; feathers round eye white; sides of face, ear-coverts, cheeks, throat, sides of neck, fore neck, and chest pale delicate vinaceous; breast and remainder of under surface pale pearly grey, with a vinaceous tinge; under tail-coverts vinous chestnut; under wing-coverts and axillaries delicate pearly grey like the sides of the body; quills below ashy brown, paler along the inner edge. Total length 14·5 inches, culmen 1·15, wing 8·9, tail 5·3, tarsus 1·0.

The figure in the Plate is life-sized, and is drawn from the specimen described above.

[R. B. S.]