

CARCINEUTES MELANOPS.

Black-faced Kingfisher.

- Halcyon melanops*, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. i. p. 154 (1850, ex Temm. MS. in Mus. Lugd.).—Cass. Cat. Halcyonidæ Philad. Mus. p. 7 (1852).—Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 94, no. 1138.
- Lacedo melanops*, Reichenbach, Handb. Alced. p. 42 (1851).—Bp. Consp. Vol. Anis. p. 9 (1854).—Salvad. Ucc. Born. p. 104 (1874).
- Carcineutes melanops*, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. Th. ii. p. 163, note (1860).—Sharpe, Monogr. Alced. pl. 97.—Id. Ibis, 1879, p. 249.
- Dacelo melanops*, Schl. Mus. Pays-Bas, Alced. p. 21 (1863).—Id. Vog. Nederl. Indië, Alced. pp. 16, 51, pl. 5 (1864).

THIS is the Bornean representative of the common *C. pulchellus*; and although it is not so rare in collections as it was when Mr. Sharpe wrote his work on the Kingfishers, it is still a sufficiently scarce bird. At the time alluded to, Mr. Sharpe was unable to describe the female bird, and only a single skin, and that one not fully adult, was known in any museum in this country. Even such ardent collectors as the Marquis Doria and Dr. Beccari were unable to obtain more than one female bird in the course of their explorations in the province of Sarawak, while neither of the Messrs. Everett has furnished it as yet from that locality. As it does not seem to have occurred to Dr. Fischer in Central Borneo, and only once to Schwaner at Banjer-massing, it may be considered a rare bird even in some parts of Borneo, to which island it appears to be restricted.

The north-western province of the island is apparently the head quarters of the species, as most of the recent collections from Lumbidan and Brunei made by Governor Ussher and Mr. Treacher contained one or more examples. The latter gentleman also procured it on the Lawas river.

Such I believe to be the extent of our knowledge of this handsome Kingfisher, nothing having been recorded concerning its habits. In plumage it closely resembles the Malaccan *Carcineutes pulchellus*, from which it is distinguished at a glance by its black forehead, face, and collar round the hind-neck. It should be noted that in Mr. Sharpe's figure the black collar is omitted, though it is duly mentioned in the description. It would appear to be gradually assumed, though when the bird is fully adult it forms a very conspicuous feature, as will be seen by a reference to my Plate. The female, as might be expected, is so like that of *C. pulchellus* that it is almost impossible to distinguish them; and I fancy that young males of the two birds must be very similar, as in some of the immature males from Borneo the cheeks are rufous, mottled with black, as if the bird commenced with a rufous face, and gradually put on the black one of *C. melanops*.

Having detailed the principal differences between these two nearly allied species, it is unnecessary for me to give a full description, and I must refer my readers to the Plates of the two birds accompanying the present articles.

The figures in the Plate represent the two sexes of the natural size, and are drawn from specimens in my own collection.