

ACTENOIDES HOMBRONI.

Hombron's Kingfisher.

- Actenoides hombroni*, Bp. Consp. i. p. 157 (1850).—Reichb. Handb. Alced. p. 36, t. ccccxii. fig. 3147 (1851).
Bp. Consp. Volucr. Anis. p. 9 (1854).—Walden, Tr. Z. S. ix. p. 155 (1875).
——— *variegata*, Hombr. & Jacq. Voyage Pôle Sud, Zool. iii. p. 101 (1853).
Halcyon hombroni, Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 93 (1869).—Sharpe, Monogr. Alced. p. 221, pl. 84.
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I HAVE the greatest satisfaction in presenting my readers with a figure of this beautiful Kingfisher, inasmuch as it is evident from the plate of the bird given in Mr. Sharpe's 'Monograph' that he was unacquainted with the adult plumage. We learn from his book that personally he had never seen an example of the species, but had procured a drawing of the original type from M. Huet, and had reproduced it in his 'Monograph.' Independently of this mode of procedure being somewhat unsatisfactory, the original specimen appears to me to be immature; and hence I believe that I am now giving for the first time a figure of the full-plumaged bird. For the opportunity of doing this I am indebted to Professor Steere, who shot the specimen in the island of Mindanao. I am also indebted to Mr. Bowdler Sharpe for the following description of it, taken from his paper on Dr. Steere's birds in the 'Transactions' of the Linnean Society:—

"*Adult male.* Head and nape bright blue, more brilliant on the sides of the head, over the eye, and on the nape; round the latter a narrow line of deep black; ear-coverts tawny chestnut; along the lower line of the lores a streak of black feathers reaching below the eye and widening behind the latter, being here shaded with blue; cheeks bright blue, forming a broad band; sides of neck and hinder part of the latter deep tawny, varied with narrow black edgings to the feathers; mantle blackish, mottled with tawny spots, these being subterminal, with a narrow black fringe; middle of back, and scapulars and wing-coverts, green with a slight shade of verditer, each feather having a distinct subterminal spot of ochraceous buff; quills blackish, externally washed with greenish, the primaries edged with ochraceous, the secondaries with the same subterminal spot of ochre as on the wing-coverts; lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts bright silvery cobalt, the sides of the back and the lateral coverts blackish washed with blue; tail-feathers deep blue with black shafts; throat white slightly washed with tawny; rest of under surface deep tawny, whiter on the centre of the abdomen, the breast-feathers with narrow, nearly obsolete, blackish margins; thighs externally blackish, internally deep tawny; feathers at sides of vent, adjoining sides of lower back, deep blue, the outer web more or less ochraceous; under wing-coverts and axillaries deep tawny; the quills blackish below, edged with pale tawny buff along the inner web; bill coral-red, the culmen black (in skin); iris hazel.

"Total length 11·3 inches; culmen 2·0, wing 4·95, tail 4·15, tarsus 0·75."

The bird is represented, in the accompanying Plate, of the size of life.