

DACELO CERVINA, Gould.

Dac. plumis capitis totius fulvescenti-albis, singulis strigâ centrali fuscâ notatis, hâc colore apud occiput magis conspicuo; gulâ albâ; nuchâ, pectore, corporeque subtus cervinis; pectore, abdomine, et lateribus, lineis transversis delicatulis et fuscis contortè ornatis; dorso summo et scapularibus fuscis; primariis nigrescenti-fuscis ad apicem, ad basin albis, ad marginem externum violaceo-cæruleis; plumis secundariis, alâque spuria violaceo-cæruleis; tectricibus majoribus et minoribus dorsoque imo lazulino-cæruleis; caudâ, tectricibusque hujus longissimis castaneis, ad apicem fulvescentibus, et lineis octo vel decem angustis violaceo-nigris, transversaliter notatis; mandibulâ superiore nigrescenti-fuscâ, base exceptâ, hâc, mandibulâque inferiore corneo-flavis; pedibus flavescenti-fuscis.

Long. tot. $14\frac{1}{2}$ unc.; rostri, 3; alæ, $7\frac{1}{8}$; caudæ, $5\frac{1}{4}$; tarsi, 1.

Feathers of the head, cheeks, and ear-coverts buffy white, with a central stripe of dark brown, which latter colour becomes most conspicuous on the occiput; throat white; back of the neck, chest, and all the under surface sienna yellow; the chest, flanks, and abdomen crossed by fine zigzag lines of brown; upper part of the back and scapularies umber brown; primaries blackish brown at the tip and white at the base; their external edges, the secondaries, and the spurious wing rich china blue; greater and lesser wing-coverts, back, and several of the upper tail-coverts light shining verditer blue; tail and the longest of the upper coverts rich chestnut brown, which passes into buff at the tip, the whole transversely marked with eight or nine narrow and regular bands of rich blue black; upper mandible blackish brown on the upper surface and towards the tip; the base and the whole of the under mandible horn yellow; feet yellowish brown.

Dacelo cervina, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc. Part V. 1837.

THE bird figured in the accompanying plate differs from every other known species of true *Dacelo* in the delicate buff or light fawn yellow which is spread over the whole of the under surface; and as this colour extends to the base of the feathers, I am led to believe constitutes a permanent character; I have therefore given it the specific appellation of *cervina*. It is a species of great rarity; two specimens only have come under my notice, one of which is in my own collection, and the other in that of the British Museum.

I am unable to record any account whatever of the history of this fine bird, further than that I have reason to believe it is an inhabitant of the eastern and northern portions of New Holland.

When compared with the other members of the genus it may be considered a diminutive species, while at the same time it is not surpassed by any in the brilliancy of its colours, particularly in the lazuline blue, which is spread over the back and wings.