

MALURUS ELEGANS, Gould.

MAS. *Mal. summo capite, nuchâ, plumis auricularibus strigâ collari et dorso medio metallice viridibus; vittâ nuchali, uropygio loro nigerrimis; plumis villosis; guldâ, pectore intensè cœruleis, abdomine medio cinerascenti-albo, ad latera et ad crissum in fuscum mergente; scapularibus castaneo-brunneis, alis brunneis; caudâ obscure cœrulescenti viride fusco lavatâ; reatricibus singulis ad apicem cinerascenti-albis; rostro nigro; pedibus intensè brunneis.*

FÆM. VEL MAS JUN. *Summo capite, nuchâ, et dorso cinerascenti-albis leviter fusco tinctis; plumis scapularibus brunneis, castaneo lavatis; alis intensè brunneis ad marginem externum pallidioribus; loro nigro; plumis auricularibus ad apicem metallicè cœruleis; corpore inferiore albo; pedibus intensè brunneis.*

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

MALE. Crown, hinder part of the head, ear-coverts, a streak upon the sides of the neck, and the centre of the back light verditer blue, the centre of the crown approaching to dark brown; space between the bill and the eye, a broad collar round the back of the neck jet black, the feathers thick and velvety; throat and chest intense indigo blue; centre of the abdomen greyish white passing into brown on the flanks and under tail-coverts; scapularies chestnut brown; wings brown; tail dull bluish green with a tinge of brown, each feather being very slightly tipped with greyish white; bill black; legs dark brown.

FEMALE OR YOUNG MALE. Crown of the head, back of the neck, and upper part of the back grey, with a tinge of brown; scapularies brown tinged with chestnut; wings dark brown, the external edges lighter; space between the bill and the eye black; tips of the ear-coverts verditer blue; under surface greyish white; bill black; feet dark brown.

Malurus elegans, Gould, in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V. 1837.

IN size this lovely species rather exceeds the *Malurus Lamberti*, and also differs from that species in the lighter colour of the verditer blue on the back and ear-coverts and in the deep blue colouring of the throat, which part is always black in *M. Lamberti*; and in the absence of the narrow band of blue which bounds posteriorly the black of the throat and back; the legs also differ in their darker colouring, and in their greater length.

The bird, which I have figured in doubt as to whether it is a female or young male, will in all probability prove to be the latter, as in no instance have I detected any bright colouring on the female of any member of this group.

A fine specimen of this bird forms a part of the collection at the British Museum; two examples have also been lately presented to the Linnean Society which were received we believe from the eastern coast of Australia.