

## CACATUA DUCORPSI, *Jacq. et Pucher.*

### Ducorps's Cockatoo.

- Cacatoès de Ducorps*, Hombr. & Jacq. Voy. Pôle Sud, Atlas, pl. 26. fig. 1 (1845).  
*Plyctolophus Du Crops*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xxx. p. 138 (1850).—Id. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1854, p. 156.  
*Cacatua ducorpsii*, Jacq. et Pucher. Voy. Pôle Sud, Zool. i. p. 108 (1853).—Hartl. J. f. O. 1854, p. 165.—Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1860, p. 228.—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1864, pp. 188, 189, pl. xvii. (nec Proc. Zool. Soc. 1862, pl. xiv.).—Wall. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1864, p. 280.—Sclater, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (3) xv. p. 74 (1865).—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1867, p. 184.—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869, pp. 118, 124.—Gray, Hand-l. Birds, ii. p. 170 (1870).—Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1875, pp. 59, 60.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. x. p. 25 (1877).—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. iv. p. 68 (1879).—Salvad. Orn. Papuasias e delle Molucche, i. p. 104 (1880).—Sclater, List of Animals in Zool. Gard. p. 312 (1883).  
*Cacatua ducorps*, Bp. Naumannia, 1856, Consp. Psitt. sp. 269.  
*Ducorpsius typus*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xlv. p. 537 (1857).  
*Cacatua ducorpsii*, Gray, List Psitt. Brit. Mus. p. 94 (1859).  
*Cacatua (Ducorpsius) ducorpsii*, Gray, Cat. B. Trop. Isl. p. 34 (1859).  
? *Lophocroa learii*, Finsch, Nederl. Tijdschr. v. Dierk. i. Berigten, p. xxiii (1863).  
*Cacatua sanguinea* (pt.), Schleg. Mus. Pays-Bas, Psittaci, p. 144 (1864).  
*Cacatua triton* (pt.), Schleg. Nederl. Tijdschr. v. Dierk. iii. p. 320 (1866).  
*Plyctolophus ducorpsii*, Finsch, Papag. i. p. 311 (1867).—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869, p. 127.  
*Cacatua goffini*, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869, p. 122, 1875, p. 61, pl. x.—Id. List of Animals in Zool. Gard. p. 312 (1883).

It is to the French discovery-ships 'L'Astrolabe' and 'La Zélée,' which made an expedition towards the South Pole in the years 1837-40, that we owe the discovery of this Cockatoo. It was found in the Solomon Islands by the naturalists of the expedition, and dedicated by Messrs. Hombron and Jacquinot, the authors of the zoological portion of the narrative of the 'Voyage au Pôle Sud,' to M. Ducorps, one of the officers on board the 'Astrolabe.'

Little further was known of Ducorps's Cockatoo until 1864, when a fine pair of the species was received alive by the Zoological Society of London, direct from Guadalcanar Island, one of the Solomon group. One of these birds was figured by Mr. Sclater in the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings' for that year (pl. xvii.), in order to show its distinctness from the larger *Cacatua ophthalmica*, which Mr. Sclater had previously confounded with *C. ducorpsi*.

In his well-known work on the Parrots, Dr. Finsch, besides admitting *C. ducorpsi* as a distinct species, also recognized *C. goffini*, which he had previously described from specimens living in the Zoological Gardens of Amsterdam and Rotterdam. In some of his remarks in the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings,' Mr. Sclater has likewise treated these two species as distinct, and has even figured a white Cockatoo as *Cacatua goffini* (see P. Z. S. 1875, p. 61, pl. x.). But we believe that he is now convinced that the specimens which he has formerly referred in some cases to *C. ducorpsi*, and in others to *C. goffini*, were not really distinct, but all belonged to the same species, to which the former title is properly applicable.

Ducorps's Cockatoo is a small white species, much resembling the Blood-stained Cockatoo (*C. sanguinea*) figured in the 'Birds of Australia,' vol. v. pl. 3; but it is immediately distinguishable by the entire absence of any red markings on the face. The naked skin round the eye is nearly circular in form and, in the living bird, of a pale blue colour. The basal part of the crest-feathers is reddish orange, with a slight tinge of lemon-yellow, sometimes mixed with rosy red towards their summit, which colour, however, is hardly seen unless the crest is elevated. The wing- and tail-feathers are likewise stained on the inner webs with pale lemon-colour. From the Cockatoo of the Philippine Islands (*Cacatua philippinarum*), which is likewise closely allied, the present species is at once distinguishable by the absence of the red colour on the vent.

As regards the supposed occurrence of this species in Queensland, which was stated by Mr. Sclater (P. Z. S. 1875, p. 60) on the information of Mr. J. T. Cockerell, Mr. Sclater now believes that there has been some error on this point, and that Ducorps's Cockatoo is absolutely confined to the islands of the Solomon group, having so far been met with in Guadalcanar and Savo.

[R. B. S.]