

CACATUA OPHTHALMICA, *Sclater*.

Blue-eyed Cockatoo.

Cacatua ducorpsii (nec Hombr. & Jacq.), Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1862, p. 141, pl. xiv.

Cacatua ophthalmica, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1864, p. 188.—Wallace, tom. cit. p. 280.—Sclater, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (3) xv. p. 74 (1865).—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1867, p. 184.—Gray, Hand-l. Birds, ii. p. 169, no. 8392 (1870).—Id. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) v. p. 329 (1870).—Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1877, p. 107.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. x. p. 25 (1877).—Id. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, i. p. 103 (1880).—Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1880, p. 67.—Id. List of Animals in Zool. Gard. p. 308 (1883).

Cacatua triton (pt.), Schleg. Nederl. Tijdschr. v. Dierk. iii. p. 320 (1866).

Ptyctolophus ophthalmicus, Finsch, Papag. i. p. 282 (1867).—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1879, p. 17.

THE White Cockatoos, as Mr. Sclater has shown, may be divided into two very easily distinguished sections. The first embraces those species which have a narrow median head-crest with the slender point recurved at the extremity, and appearing above the surface of the adjoining feathers when the crest is in a state of repose. The second contains those species which have the crest broadened, comprising the greater part of the head-feathers, and rising, when erect, into a sphere more or less pyramidal in shape, but showing when in a state of repose no recurved point. The present bird belongs to the second of these sections, and is most nearly allied to two well-known species—the White-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua cristata* of Ternate and Halmahera, and the Rose-crested Cockatoo, *C. moluccensis* of Ceram, having a similar broad pendent crest. But it may be easily distinguished from these two species, with which it nearly agrees in size, by the delicate lemon-colour of its crest, and by the broad blue naked space round the eye, from which latter feature it has received the appropriate name of *ophthalmica*.

In 1862 an example of this fine Cockatoo was first received by the Zoological Society of London. It was at once recognized as a species unknown to him by Mr. Sclater, and described and figured in the 'Proceedings.' But misled, apparently, by the wrong locality attributed to this bird, which was stated to have been received from the Solomon Islands, Mr. Sclater unfortunately referred it to *Cacatua ducorpsi*, with which he was not at that period acquainted. In 1864, however, the receipt of authentic specimens of the true *Cacatua ducorpsi* direct from the Solomon group enabled Mr. Sclater to correct his error, and to establish this bird in its proper position as a distinct species. Moreover its true locality is now well known to us.

Specimens of this Cockatoo were in the collections made in Duke-of-York Island and the adjacent parts of New Ireland and New Britain by Mr. George Brown, C.M.Z.S., in 1877 (see P. Z. S. 1877, p. 107), and in the collection made by Mr. Hübner in the same district in 1878, which was described by Dr. Finsch in the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings' for 1879 (see P. Z. S. 1879, p. 17). Mr. Hübner notes that the native name of this bird in New Britain is "*Moal*." Again, in 1880, Mr. George Brown, then resident at Duke-of-York Island, forwarded a living pair of this Cockatoo to the Zoological Society's Gardens, with the information that the bird is found in New Britain, but not in New Ireland.

Our illustration of this Cockatoo has been prepared from a female specimen formerly living in the Zoological Society's Gardens. The colours of the naked parts have been added from an example now living in the same collection.

[R. B. S.]