

SAUROMARPTIS GAUDICHAUDI.

Gaudichaud's Kingfisher.

- Dacelo gaudichaudi*, Quoy & Gaim. Voy. de l'Uranie, p. 112, pl. xv.—Gray, Cat. Fissirostres Brit. Mus. p. 52.—Id. Gen. B. i. p. 78.—Bonap. Consp. Av. i. p. 154.—Cass. Cat. Halcyonidæ Philad. Mus. p. 14.—Sclater, Proc. Linn. Soc. ii. p. 155.—Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, Alced. p. 20.—Id. Vog. Nederl. Indië, Alced. pp. 13, 49, pl. iv.—Gray, Hand-list of Birds, i. p. 89, no. 1063.—Sharpe, Monogr. Alced. p. 295, pl. cxvi.—Id. Journ. Linn. Soc. xiii. pp. 313, 493.—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, i. p. 389.—D'Albert. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. x. p. 19.—Sharpe, Linn. Soc. Journal, xiv. p. 686.
- Choucalcyon gaudichaudi*, Lesson, Traité d'Orn. p. 248.—Bonap. Consp. Voluc. Anis. p. 9.
- Monachalcyon gaudichaudi*, Reichenbach, Handb. Alced. p. 37, Taf. cccxxv. fig. 3156.
- Sauromarptis gaudichaudi*, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. Th. ii. p. 164.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 765.—Id. & D'Albert. tom. cit. p. 816.—Salvad. op. cit. viii. p. 398.—Id. op. cit. ix. p. 21.—Id. op. cit. x. pp. 128, 306.—D'Albert. & Salvad. op. cit. xiv. p. 53.

No greater proof could be given, of the great progress which ornithology has made during the last ten years, than a comparison of the localities which this species was known to inhabit in the year 1869 with the list of habitats which are enumerated by Count Salvadori in his 'Prodromus' of the Kingfishers of New Guinea and the Papuan Islands. Originally discovered in New Guinea and Guébeh by Messrs. Quoy and Gaimard during the voyage of the 'Uranie,' the localities of Waigiou, Mysol, and the Aru Islands were added by Mr. Wallace. Mr. Sharpe also includes Ceram, on the authority of specimens in the Leiden Museum; but Count Salvadori omits this island from his list, and it seems doubtful if the species has ever really occurred there. Count Salvadori has examined one hundred and twenty specimens collected in the Papuan Islands by the recent Italian explorers Beccari and D'Albertis, as well as the Dutch voyagers Bruijn, Bernstein, and von Rosenberg; and the following places are given by him as habitats for this fine species:—N.W. New Guinea, Dorey, Mansinam, Andai, Warbusi, Wairoro, Dorei-Hum, Sorong, Kukuladi, Lobo, and the following islands—Salawati, Batanta, Waigiou, Guébeh, Jobi, Miosnom, Mysol, and the Aru Islands; while it has also been found in South-eastern New Guinea. In this part of the great Papuan island D'Albertis has found the species on the Fly River and in Hall Bay, the Rev. Mr. Lawes at Hood Bay (60 miles east of Port Moresby), Dr. James at Nicura, and Mr. Stone on the Laloke river.

Messrs. Quoy and Gaimard give the following note on this Kingfisher in their original account of the bird:—"This species, to which we have given the name of our friend and colleague the botanist attached to the expedition, inhabits the woods of the Papuan Islands. The aborigines call it *Mangrogone* and *Mankinetrous*; the inhabitants of Guébé call it *Salba*,—these being the names employed by the islanders for all Kingfishers. It is not shy, and is easily approached. The individuals that we killed had their beaks still covered with the earth in which they had been digging to procure their food." Mr. Wallace states that he found the species not uncommon in swampy jungle, where its curious loud barking was often heard and was sometimes mistaken for that of a dog. It feeds on Crustacea, butterflies, Mollusca, and Myriopoda.

The following descriptions are given by Mr. Sharpe in his 'Monograph':—

"*Adult male*.—Crown of the head, cheeks, ear-coverts, upper part of the back, and scapularies deep black; in very old birds a few of the feathers edged with bright blue; a patch of feathers along the base of the upper mandible, a stripe behind the eye, and a collar round the neck ochre; a spot on the occiput white; wing-coverts black washed with bright cobalt; quills blackish, the inner web light ochre from the base, the outer web edged with deep indigo, more especially on the secondaries; lower back and upper tail-coverts bright silvery blue; tail deep indigo above, black underneath; throat pure white; sides of neck and under wing-coverts white tinged with light ochre; rest of under surface of body deep chestnut; bill light yellow, the upper mandible tinged with black; feet black. Total length 11·8 inches, culmen 1·8, wing 5·3, tail 4·0, tarsus 0·85.

"*Female*.—Similar to the male, but having the colours not quite so bright, and the tail reddish."