

CALLIECHTHRUS LEUCOLOPHUS.

White-crowned Black Cuckoo.

- Cuculus leucolophus*, S. Müll. Verh. Land- en Volkenk. p. 22, note, p. 233 (1839-44).—Schl. Handl. Dierk. i. p. 204, pl. iii. fig. 33 (1857).—Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, p. 195.—Id. Cat. Mamm. etc. New Guinea, pp. 44, 60 (1859).—Id. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1861, p. 437.—Schl. Mus. Pays-Bas, *Cuculi*, p. 16 (1864).—Gray, Hand-list Birds, ii. p. 216, no. 9012 (1880).—Beccari, Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 715 (1875).—Id. Ibis, 1876, p. 253.
- Simotes albivertex*, Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. xv. pp. 15, 283 (1846).—Id. Cat. B. As. Soc. Mus. p. 75 (1849).
- Cuculus albivertex*, Gray, Gen. B. iii. App. p. 23 (1849).
- Symotes leucolophus*, Blyth, Cat. B. As. Soc. Mus. p. xix (1852).
- Hierococcyx leucolophus*, Bonap. Consp. Av. i. p. 104 (1850).—Id. Consp. Volucr. Zygod. p. 7 (1854).—Sclater, Proc. Linn. Soc. ii. p. 166 (1858).—Rosenb. J. f. O. 1864, p. 117.
- Calliechthrus leucolophus*, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. iv. p. 31 (1862).—Salvad. Atti R. Accad. Torin. xiii. p. 313 (1878).—Id. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. xiii. p. 461 (1878).—D'Albert. & Salvad. op. cit. xiv. p. 43 (1879).—Id. in D'Albert. New Guinea, ii. p. 405 (1880).—Salvad. Orn. Papuasias e delle Molucche, i. p. 358 (1880).
- Eudynamis leucolophus*, Finsch, Neu-Guinea, p. 159 (1865).

This is a peculiar species of Cuckoo, having the black coloration of a Koel (*Eudynamis*), but with the nostrils of a true Cuckoo (*Cuculus*). Its bill, however, is abnormally broad, and it forms an interesting link between the two genera above mentioned.

It was originally discovered at Lobo in New Guinea by the well-known traveller Solomon Müller, and in the north-western portion of the same island it has been met with at Mum by Dr. Meyer, at Andei by Baron von Rosenberg, and at Warbusi by Dr. Beccari. The latter naturalist says that it is one of the rarest of birds in the north-western portion of New Guinea. Mr. Bruijn has received it from Salwati, and in the south-eastern part of New Guinea Signor D'Albertis met with it on the Fly River, and Mr. Forbes has procured specimens in the Astrolabe Mountains, at Moroka (alt. 5000 feet), and in the Sogeri district at a height of 2000 feet.

So far as is known, the present species is only found in New Guinea and Salwati. Dr. Finsch gives Mysol as a habitat, but apparently in error, as no specimens from this locality are in the Leiden Museum. The late Mr. Blyth described the species as from Borneo; but he afterwards corrected this, and stated that it was from "an islet off the coast of Waigiou," where, however, no recent traveller has obtained it. There is at the same time no improbability in the occurrence of the species in either of the above-mentioned islands.

The following is a description of the pair of birds procured by Mr. H. O. Forbes:—

Adult. General colour above glossy blue-black; quills and tail black, with a gloss of blue-black externally; a broad line of white feathers along the centre of the crown to the nape; sides of face and under surface of body black, the breast and abdomen more ashy, the long under tail-coverts barred near the end and tipped with white; under wing-coverts black, with a few white bars: "bill black; feet blackish lead-colour; iris chestnut-brown" (*D'Albertis*). Total length 12.5 inches, culmen 1.25, breadth at gape 0.55, wing 6.6, tail 6.0, tarsus 0.85.

Young. Differs from the adult in being more dingy black, and in having white bars on the breast, under tail-coverts, and under wing-coverts, and a white tip to the tail-feathers. Total length 12 inches, culmen 1.1, wing 6.3, tail 5.8, tarsus 0.85.

The figures in the Plate represent an adult and young of this curious Cuckoo, of about the natural size; they are drawn from the above-mentioned specimens collected by Mr. Forbes.

[R. B. S.]