

## CALORNIS FEADENSIS, *Ramsay*.

### Fead-Island Starling.

*Calornis (Aplonis) feadensis*, Ramsay, Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. xvi. p. 129 (1881).—Reichen. & Schalow, Journ. für Orn. 1882, p. 227.

*Calornis feadensis*, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. xviii. p. 426 (1882).—Id. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, iii. App. p. 550 (1882).

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THE genera *Aplonis* and *Calornis* may ultimately be found to be undistinguishable, and certainly the present bird seems to be a connecting link between the two genera. The species of *Calornis* are of more brilliant coloration, and the bill is not so stout nor so arched as in *Aplonis*; and in the former respect *C. feadensis* agrees with the Polynesian Starlings, while in the shape of the bill it is more like *Calornis*, in which genus we have retained it. Its nearest allies are *C. cantoroides* and that group of *Calornis*, but it possesses a peculiar dull coloration, sufficient to distinguish it at a glance.

As its name implies, it is an inhabitant of Fead Island, one of the Solomon group, and it was here discovered by the Rev. George Brown. Only a single specimen is at present known, and for the loan of this typical example we are indebted to our kind friend Mr. E. P. Ramsay, who described the species.

The following description is taken from the type:—

*Adult*. Entirely sooty, with here and there a shade of steel-green; wing-coverts, quills, and tail-feathers dusky black, externally washed with steel-green; entire head and under surface of body sooty black, with scarcely any indication of a greenish gloss. Total length 7 inches, culmen 0·85, wing 4·45, tail 2·4, tarsus 1·05.

On the Plate is represented the figure of an adult bird of the natural size, drawn from the specimen above mentioned.

[R. B. S.]