

EUPETES CÆRULESCENS, *Temm.*

Blue-bodied Eupetes.

Eupetes cærulescens, Temm. Pl. Col. ii. pl. 574 (1835).—Müll. Naturl. Geschied. Land- u. Volkenk. p. 22 (1839-44).—Gray, Gen. B. i. p. 208 (1846).—Bp. Consp. i. p. 252 (1850).—Sclater, Proc. Linn. Soc. 1858, p. 158.—Gray, Cat. Mamm. & B. New Guin. p. 25 (1859).—Finsch, Neu-Guin. p. 167 (1865).—Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 267 (1869).—Sclater, P. Z. S. 1873, p. 696.

THE genus *Eupetes* is no doubt one of the great group of strong-legged Thrushes, or *Timaliidae*, so plentifully distributed throughout the tropical portions of the Old World; but, like many of the genera contained in the family, its systematic position is extremely difficult to define. Indications, however, of a more intimate acquaintance with these birds are not wanting; for whereas the present species has remained for thirty-five years represented by a single unique specimen in the Leiden Museum, it has been rediscovered by Signor D'Albertis, while the same traveller and his companions, Drs. Bruijn and Beccari, have succeeded in discovering no less than three new species in the northern part of New Guinea. The only remaining member of the genus is the *Eupetes ajaw*, of Malacca, a bird plentiful enough in collections.

It cannot be expected that so rare a species should have much of a history attached to it; and, indeed, up to the present time no notes whatever have been published respecting it. D'Albertis met with it in Andai, in North-western New Guinea; and it was originally discovered by the well-known travellers Macklot and Von Mueller in Lobo Bay.

My figure is taken from a specimen kindly lent me by Signor D'Albertis, through Dr. Bennett, of Sydney, to whom I make my best acknowledgments for the loan. It represents an adult bird of the size of life.

As far as I yet know, there is no different colouring in the sexes. The bird which is figured in the Plate is nearly uniform delicate bluish grey; throat white, surrounded by a collar of black, including the ear-coverts and lores; the under part of the tail sooty grey; bill and legs black.