ARTAMIDES UNIMODUS.

Slaty-grey Cuckoo-Shrike.

Graucalus unimodus, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, pp. 55, 198.

This fine Cuckoo-Shrike is very nearly allied to Artamides cæruleigriseus of the Aru Islands, like which species it has buff-coloured axillaries and under wing-coverts. Excepting in this respect, however, the two birds are quite different; for A. cæruleigriseus is blue-grey instead of slaty grey, and the male has only the lores, feathers in front of the eye, the base of the chin, and the base of the cheeks black, showing none of the black on the throat and fore neck which distinguishes A. unimodus.

The females of the two species are also distinct; for besides the blue-grey colour of A. cæruleigriseus, the latter has the lores grey, and no black on the chin or cheeks, whereas in A. unimodus the lores and the base of the chin and base of the cheeks are black.

The female bird was shot by Mr. H. O. Forbes in the island of Larat in the Tenimber group on the 4th of August 1882, and the male was obtained in Loetoer, on the mainland of Timor Laut, in September of the same year.

Mr. Forbes informs us that he found this species frequenting the mangroves along the shores on both occasions when he procured it.

The following descriptions are taken from the type specimens kindly lent to us by Dr. Sclater:-

Adult male (type of species). General colour above uniform slaty grey; lesser and median wing-coverts like the back; greater coverts, bastard wing, primary-coverts, and quills blackish, washed externally with ashy grey and edged with slaty grey like the back, lighter on the margins of the primaries; upper tail-coverts like the back, but crossed with dusky bars under certain lights and with more or less of a subterminal shade of black; tail-feathers black, barred across with dusky under certain lights, the feathers edged with ashy grey round the tips; forehead slightly shaded with darker slate-colour than the crown; nasal plumes, lores, feathers round the eye, ear-coverts, sides of hinder crown, and entire throat and centre of fore neck greenish black, the lower part of this latter washed with slaty grey; sides of neck and rest of under surface slaty grey, darker on the under tail-coverts; thighs black; under wing-coverts pale fawn-colour or buff with slaty-grey centres to the feathers, all the lower greater coverts and those near the edge of the wings blackish slate-colour; quills dusky below, ashy grey on their inner face; "bill, legs, and feet black; iris dark brown" (H. O. Forbes). Total length 13·8 inches, culmen 1·25, wing 7·65, tail 6·5, tarsus 1·15.

Adult female. Differs from the male in wanting the black on the throat and fore neck; the lores and feathers in front of the eye, a spot at the base of the cheeks, and another smaller mark at the base of the chin black; axillaries and under wing-coverts more wholly ochreous buff, less distinctly washed with slaty grey in the centres; thighs grey like the rest of the under surface; "iris black" (H. O. Forbes). Total length 13.6 inches, culmen 1.3, wing 6.2, tail 5.9, tarsus 1.15.

The Plate represents the adult male and female described above, of about the natural size. They are now in the British Museum.

[R. B. S.]