

CHÆTORHYNCHUS PAPUENSIS, Meyer.

Arfak Drongo.

Chætorhynchus papuensis, Meyer, Sitz. Akad. Wiss. Wien, lxi. p. 493 (1874).—Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 242, pl. xiii. (1877).

THIS little species of King Crow or Drongo Shrike was discovered by Dr. Meyer during his visit to New Guinea, and, although not a showy bird, is one of great interest to the naturalist, who is ever on the watch for forms which evince unexpected affinities to others of a distant habitat. In the present instance we find, in the Arfak Mountains of North-western New Guinea, a genus of Drongo which, in size, general form, and especially in the scaly nature of its plumage, reminds us forcibly of the small genus *Chaptia* of India and Malayana. In one respect, however, *Chætorhynchus* differs not only from *Chaptia*, but from all other genera of the *Dicruridæ*; and that is, in the shoulder-spot of white which adorns the New-Guinea bird. The general coloration of the Drongos is black, relieved by a certain gloss or metallic spangles. An intermixture of white is of rare occurrence in the family; it occurs, however, in some of the Indian species of *Buchanga* (which have a little white on the lower parts), and is most conspicuous in *Dicrurus mirabilis* of the Philippines (which has a pure white breast and abdomen).

The Arfak Drongo has a white spot on the shoulders; but this is by no means a conspicuous feature, as may be gathered from the fact that when Dr. Meyer described the species he did not notice it, nor did Mr. Bowdler Sharpe, in his 'Catalogue of Birds,' nor did Mr. Keulemans when he drew the figure for the latter work. Indeed it was only when Dr. Meyer came to have one of the typical specimens mounted for the Dresden Museum that the shoulder-spot became suddenly visible; and its first discovery is due to him. I have therefore much pleasure in giving the first accurate figure of *Chætorhynchus*. I find that the white spot varies much in size, and is almost absent in some specimens. I have examined the typical examples obtained by Dr. Meyer, as well as others procured by M. Laglaize, one of which is in the collection of the British Museum.

The following description is given by Mr. Sharpe in the work above alluded to, and is taken from one of the original types:—

General colour black, with a steely gloss, the head more brightly glossed with steel-green, the feathers rounded and somewhat scale-like in appearance; least wing-coverts steel-black, the median, greater, and primary-coverts black, narrowly edged with steel-green; quills black, the secondaries margined with steel-green, the innermost glossed with the latter colour; tail black, slightly glossed with steel-green on the edges of the feathers; sides of face and under surface of body black, the breast glossed with steel reflections; under wing-coverts greyish black; bill and feet black. Total length 7 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 4·2, tail 3·5, tarsus 0·7.

The figures in the Plate represent the species of the natural size; they are drawn from the type specimens, lent to me by Dr. Meyer.