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XXXV.—Description of a new Siluroid Fish from China.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

Pseudobagrus eupogon.

D. 1/7. A. 22. P. 1/8.

Upper surface of head smooth and covered with skin; occipital process twice as long as broad, as long as the basal bone of the dorsal spine; head once and one fifth as long as broad. Teeth on the palate villiform, in a crescentic band. Nasal barbels twice and a half as long as the eye; maxillary barbels a little longer than the head, extending to the middle of the pectoral spine; outer mandibular barbels three fourths the length of the head, inner one half. The depth of the body contained six times in the total length (without caudal), the length of the head five times. Dorsal spine serrated behind, half the length of the head. Adipose fin longer than the dorsal, measuring three fifths its distance from the caudal. Pectoral spine strong, one fourth longer than the dorsal, very strongly serrated on the inner edge. Caudal deeply forked. A dark lateral stripe; fins with blackish edge; barbels blackish.

Total length (including caudal lobes) 250 millim.

Shanghai. A single specimen, received from the Shanghai Museum.

XXXVI.—Description of a new Species of Rail from Laysan Island (North Pacific). By F. W. FROHAWK, F.E.S.

Porzanula Palmeri, sp. n.

Adult male.—The crown, nape, back, tail, and flanks are a light brown having a slight russet hue; the entire upper surface is streaked with dark brown and black, each feather having an elongated blackish centre; the mantle in some specimens is distinctly mottled with white, but in others the white is scarcely perceptible; cheeks, sides of neck, throat, breast, and abdomen leaden or smoke-grey; the feathers on the flanks have each about four ovate white spots faintly outlined with black; wing very small and rounded, 2nd-4th primaries equal and longest, colour of outer webs pale buff, inner webs smoky brown; secondaries and coverts same

colouring as the back : bill light green, darkest and inclining to purplish at the tip and culmen ; iris ruby ; eyelid pale grey-green ; tarsus and feet light olive grey-green. Total length about 6 inches, but capable of extending its neck to a considerable length, adding as much as 2 inches or more to the entire length. Wing from carpal joint $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches ; bill (culmen) $\frac{7}{10}$ inch ; tarsus $\frac{9}{10}$ inch ; middle toe, including claw, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Sexes very similar, but the female generally paler in colour throughout.

Young birds have the underparts pale buff, replacing the grey of the adult.

The nestling is entirely covered with black down, the bill yellowish.

Nest : outside measurement 6 inches across, from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches high ; inside it measures 3 inches across and 2 inches deep ; it is rather loosely constructed of strips of sedge and coarse grass, and woven together with very fine shreds of grass, fibres, and a little down ; inside the materials are rather finer.

The eggs are oval, the ends of equal size, average measurements $1\frac{1}{8}$ by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and are of a very pale creamy buff flecked with light red-brown and purplish grey, both colours being pale and somewhat indistinct ; in some the colouring is much suffused and variable in depth ; they also vary in size.

The nest described was found on June 24th, 1891, and contained three eggs.

Locality. Laysan Island, lat. $25^{\circ} 46' N.$, long. $171^{\circ} 49' W.$

The following notes I have fortunately had the opportunity of making from the living birds now in the collection of the Hon. Walter Rothschild (which are in the charge of Mr. Doggett) ; they have lately been received from his collector, Henry Palmer, from Laysan Island.

This little rail is of very considerable interest, being new to science, of small size, incapable of flight, very active and swift on foot, apparently very tame and fearless, and easily caught.

I had the opportunity of observing them while they were running about a room, when I noticed they never once attempted to make use of their wings ; the only time I noticed them doing so was in springing up to perch.

During the day they keep up an incessant chirping, consisting of from one to three soft, short, and clear notes ; but soon after dusk they all, as if by one given signal, strike up a most peculiar chorus, which lasts but a few seconds, and then all remain silent. I can only compare the sound to a handful or two of marbles being thrown on a glass roof

and then descending in a succession of bounds, striking and restriking the glass at each ricochet.

The tail is at times held drooping, sometimes elevated, and frequently jerked up and down.

XXXVII.—*Description of a new Species of Calyptomena from North-western Borneo.* By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D., F.L.S., &c.

THE accompanying description applies to a most beautiful bird which has been submitted to the British Museum by Mr. Charles Hose, who procured it on Mount Dulit. It is a larger bird than *C. viridis*, but inferior in size to *C. White-headi*, and differs from both in its bright blue breast.

I propose to call it, after its discoverer,

Calyptomena Hosii, sp. n.

Adult male.—General colour emerald-green, with a black spot on the forehead, nearly concealed by the loreal plumes which overhang the bill, the lateral frontal plumes having concealed black bases; on the occiput a spot of velvety black, and a small spot of black on each side behind the ear-coverts; on the lower hind neck another patch of velvety black; on all the median and greater wing-coverts a rounded subterminal spot of black; quills black, externally emerald-green; the innermost secondaries entirely green; upper tail-coverts very long, green like the back, and *entirely concealing a lateral patch of brilliant cobalt-blue feathers*; tail-feathers green, with black shafts, with a broad terminal band of black; throat and entire sides of body emerald-green, the centre of the body bright cobalt-blue from the lower throat downwards; under tail-coverts blue, with greenish bases; under wing-coverts dark emerald-green, and quills black below.

Total length 8·5 inches, culmen about 0·8, wing 5·2, tail 2·4, tarsus 1·0.

Adult female.—Differs from the male in being much duller in colour, more yellowish-green in tint, especially on the under surface, where the lower breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts are pale blue, not rich cobalt as in the male. The black spots on the forehead, occiput, hind neck, and behind the ear-coverts are entirely wanting, and on the wing-coverts the black spots are confined to the median series only; the tail-feathers are entirely dark green, blackish near the base.

Total length 7·5 inches, culmen 1·7, wing 4·8, tail 2·4, tarsus 0·95.