

A NEW RACE OF *CORACINA CALEDONICA*

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THE species, *Coracina caledonica*, found in Melanesia from New Caledonia to the northern Solomons, occupies a rather isolated position with no close relatives on the neighboring islands. Previously the birds from the Solomon Islands were included in a separate species, *welchmani*. Specimens of *C. caledonica* from New Caledonia when compared with any one of the three races from the Solomons show a good deal of difference in the lack of any pronounced sexual dimorphism. Both the males and the females of *caledonica* are similarly colored, whereas in *bougainvillei*, for example, the crown, lores, chin, and throat of the male are glossy black while the female has black only on the auricular area. Comparison of birds from the Loyalty and New Hebrides Islands has shown, however, that there is a gradation or cline from one form of coloration into the other. This condition is also paralleled by the slight differences in bill and tarsus which intergrade from island to island.

Our study of these forms has disclosed that birds from Erromango Island belong to an undescribed race. We therefore propose:

***Coracina caledonica seiuncta* new subspecies**

*Type*.—No. 305836, American Museum of Natural History, adult female, from Erromango Island, southern New Hebrides; collected May 1, 1936, by L. Macmillan.

*Subspecific characters*.—Differs from *lifuensis* by being smaller; color of upper and under parts much lighter and paler, between slate and slate-gray; under wing-coverts paler, almost whitish gray; under tail-coverts slate. From *thilenii* of the northern New Hebrides, this race differs by being smaller; less blackish on the throat and malar region; under wing-coverts paler, less blackish slate-colored; under tail-coverts slate rather than blackish.

The adult female differs as the male except that the female of *thilenii* has the throat and malar region slaty as in *seiuncta*. One immature bird shows the same subspecific characters.

Culmen (of molting adult male specimen), 27 mm.; tarsus, 33; wing (one female adult), 181; tail, 157.

*Range*.—Erromango Island, southern New Hebrides Islands.

This very distinct race occupies a curiously isolated position; no other populations of this genus have been found on the large islands immediately to the north or south of Erromango.

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