

GENERAL NOTES

A new drongo from the Moluccas.—During a revision of the family Dicruridae, now in the process of preparation, two specimens of *Dicrurus hottentottus* from Morotai Island in the Rothschild Collection, American Museum of Natural History, were examined. These two specimens were identified as *Dicrurus atrocaeruleus* Gray. A comparison with typical *atrocaeruleus* from Halmahera showed that the Morotai birds belong to an undescribed race which I propose to call

***Dicrurus hottentottus morotensis*, new subspecies**

TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 672587; Rothschild Coll.; non-sexed adult; Morty [Morotai] Island; no date; Dumas Coll.

DIAGNOSIS: Similar to neighboring *atrocaeruleus* from Halmahera but considerably smaller in all measurements. Similar to *carbonarius* of New Guinea but with a shorter, less deep, and much more delicately shaped bill.

MEASUREMENTS: Length of the bill taken from the anterior border of the nostril, 19.5, 20 (19.75) mm.; wing, 148, 149 (148.5); outer tail feather, 134; central tail feather, 115, 115; depth of the fork, 19.

Corresponding measurements of 16 adult specimens of *atrocaeruleus*: bill, ♂ 22–25.5 (23.44), ♀ 22–24 (23); wing, ♂ 168–181.5 (171.93), ♀ 162.5–165 (163.5); outer tail feather, ♂ 150–165 (155.57), ♀ 142–153 (147); central tail feather, ♂ 132–143.5 (139.27), ♀ 131–139 (133.66); depth of the fork averages, ♂ 16.3; ♀ 13.34.

Length of the bill in *carbonarius*, 262 specimens: ♂ 19–24.5 (21.88), ♀ 18.5–24 (21.30).

Depth of the bill at nostril: *morotensis*, 10, 10; *carbonarius*, 6 ♂: Numfor, 13; Waigeu, 12.5, 13; Bernhard Camp, 12.7, 12.8, 13.2 (average of 6 ♂ 12.86); *atrocaeruleus*, 6 ♂: Halmahera, 12, 12, 12.5, 13, 13, 13.5 (12.66).

RANGE: Morotai Island.

DISCUSSION: Although only two specimens have been examined, they differ so strikingly from a large series of *atrocaeruleus* and *carbonarius* that the naming of this race seems necessary. Furthermore, the new race indicates a trend toward reduction in size and, with the exception of the length and furcation of the tail, resembles the otherwise isolated Philippine race, *striatus*, and is thus of considerable phylogenetic and zoogeographic interest. A more detailed discussion of this form will be presented at a later date in the revision of the family.

I take great pleasure in expressing to Dr. James P. Chapin and Dr. Ernst Mayr of the American Museum of Natural History my gratitude for their inspiring guidance and the many suggestions with which they are helping me in the course of this work.—A. J. C. VAURIE, *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

Age in relation to migration in the Blue Jay.—Recently, Dexter (Bird-banding, 16: 64–65, 1945) has reported some interesting banding returns of the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). He cites a series of other reports published earlier in the same journal, including a paper by Gill (Bird-banding, 12: 109–112, 1941), in which an attempt was made to detect some explanation of the partial migration characteristic of that species. Gill concluded (p. 112): "It is probable that a migratory movement does occur among this species [it seems to me that any doubt on this point was adequately dispelled before 1941], particularly among the younger birds, and that with advancing age, Blue Jays become more a resident