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Postilla

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COMMENTS ON BIRDS FROM THE WESTERN PAPUAN ISLANDS

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1. *Birds from Kofiau Island*

Opportunities for visiting Kofiau Island (often called Koffiao, Kavijave, Kavijaaw, or Poppa in the literature) are few and far between. The island lies nearly ninety miles west of Sorong, regional capital of western Netherlands New Guinea, exposed to strong swells in the monsoon seasons. No boat anchorage exists and the small population of Besarese fishermen lives primarily on a few offshore rocky islets.

Odoardo Beccari visited Kofiau in July, 1875, on a schooner from Ternate, intending to spend several days (1875). His visit was cut short, however, by illness, and he spent only thirty hours there. Fortunately he was able to collect a total of 40 specimens during that time including topotypes of *Tanysiptera ellioti* and *Rhipidura vidua*. These forms had been taken in 1867 by David Hokum, an assistant of Mr. Hoedt a professional supplier of birds in Ambon. In 1875 also Bruijn's collectors from Ternate visited Kofiau, and except for an undated visit by Bernstein, this seems to have been the last ornithological visit to the Island.

During 1954 while studying birds in the Moluccas and Western Papuan Islands on a field trip,[1] my wife and I attempted

[1] This field work was supported by research fellowship grants from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Science Foundation as well as funds from Yale and the Vose Fund of the Explorer's Club of New York.

to visit Kofiau. Neither patrol vessels nor commercial schooners were available, however, during our stay in New Guinea and an attempt to secure the services of an oil company flying boat also failed. Somewhat later my assistant, Jusup Khakiaj, managed to visit Kofiau in 1955 in a seagoing canoe accompanied by an Arafura bird hunter from Misool. He spent fifteen days from the 25 April to 9 May on the Island and was able to clamber about the rocky foreshore and climb a short way into the heavily forested interior.

Kofiau Island is about fifteen miles long, running in an east-west direction. It is heavily wooded, and the present settlements are essentially on the offlying islands such as Djailolo and Deer which lie just north of the mainland of Kofiau separated from it by a narrow sheltered channel. Kofiau lies outside of the 200 meter bank which marks the Sahul Shelf and includes such islands as Salawati, just off the New Guinea mainland, and Misool, some thirty miles south south-east of Kofiau. The island has several hills, one nearly a thousand feet tall, named Mata or Boemfoar.

The Boo Islets which lie about ten miles west of Kofiau include one islet Boo Ketjil an alternative name of which is Popa. This name has been applied to Kofiau in the literature. Beccari in his letter to Salvadori (1875, tom. cit.:707) speaks of "Poppa" as being a misnomer for Kofiau, which he spelt Koffiao. David Hokum in 1867 called the island Kavijaaw.

Jusup Khakiaj's collection while small, is of interest, as it appears to be the first made in perhaps eighty years. I am very grateful to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History for permission to examine specimens in their care.

Of the thirty-one known species and subspecies from Kofiau, listed in the following pages it is interesting to note that they fall into these several categories.

Species of unknown affinities: one, *Ducula* species (seen but not collected).

Migrants: three, *Pluvialis dominica fulvus*, *Merops ornatus*, *Halcyon sancta sancta*.

This leaves twenty-seven forms which may be characterized as follows:

1) Forms common to Moluccas and New Guinea; seven (= 27%).

Butorides striatus papuensis
Pandion haliaetus melvillensis
Megapodius freycinet freycinet
Chalcophaps indica indica
Caloenas nicobarica nicobarica
Pachycephala phaionotum
Nectarinia jugularis frenata

2) Forms representing New Guinea subspecies (includes Kai and Aru Islands); fourteen (= 51%).

Ptilinopus rivoli prasinorrhous
Ptilinopus viridis pectoralis
Macropygia amboinensis doreya
Opopsitta diopthalma diopthalma
Micropsitta keiensis chloroxantha
Geoffroyus geoffroyi pucherani
Cacomantis variolosus infaustus
Alcyone pusilla pusilla
Pitta sordida nova-guineae
Coracina tenuirostre müllerii
Gerygone magnirostris occasa
Monarcha alecto chalybeocephalus
Monarcha guttula
Philemon novaeguineae novaeguineae

3) Forms representing Moluccan subspecies; two (= 7%).

Coracina papuensis melanolora
Dicrurus hottentottus atrocaeruleus

4) Forms intermediate between species of the Moluccas and New Guinea; four (= 15%).

Tanysiptera (galatea) ellioti
Rhipidura rufiventris vidua
Monarcha julianae
Nectarinia sericea mariae

From the above it will be seen that while 51% of the Kofiau residents are overwhelmingly of close New Guinea affinity, almost one quarter or 22% represent forms either intermediate or more nearly Moluccan in their affinity, thus corresponding closely with the geographical position of the Island. That 15% of these represent endemisms is a remarkable example of the inherent speciation potential of such an island in such a geographic location.

Annotated List of Birds from Kofiau

In the following list, I have given the names of the collectors in brackets at the end of the discussion.

1) *Butorides striatus papuensis* Mayr

♀, May 8, 1955, wing 178 mm., culmen 65 mm. This specimen is small compared to Mayr's measurements (1940), but agrees with at least one specimen, although it was listed as possibly subadult, recorded by Van Bemmel (1948:397). (Khakiaj)

2) *Pandion haliaetus melvillensis* Mathews

♀ April 30. (Khakiaj)

3) *Megapodius freycinet freycinet* Gaimard

♀ May 2 (Bruijn, Beccari, Khakiaj)

4) *Pluvialis dominica fulva* (Gmelin)

An adult, unsexed, in breeding dress was taken in May. (Khakiaj).

5) *Ptilinopus rivoli prasinorrhous* Gray

(Beccari)

6) *Ptilinopus viridis pectoralis* (Wagler)

(Beccari)

7) *Ducula* sp.?

Jusup Khakiaj reported the presence of a large fruit pigeon on Kofiau. The birds were high up in forest trees, difficult to see, as always, and resisted his collecting efforts. He believes that the species represented is *Ducula rufigaster*.

8) *Macropygia amboinensis doreya* Bonaparte
♂ subadult, April 30 (Beccari, Khakiaj).

9) *Chalcophaps indica indica* (Linnaeus)
(Beccari)

10) *Caloenas nicobarica nicobarica* (Linnaeus)
(Hoedt)

11) *Opopsitta diophthalma diophthalma* (Hombron and Jacquinot) (Beccari)

12) *Micropsitta keiensis chloroxantha* Oberholser
(Beccari)

13) *Geoffroyus geoffroyi pucherani* Souancé
♀, April 30. Wing 164. (Hoedt, Khakiaj)

14) *Cacomantis variolosus infaustus* Cabanis and Heine
♀, April 25. Wing 117, culmen 20. Iris grayish, bill dark brown, feet yellowish. (Bernstein, Khakiaj)

15) *Alcyone pusilla pusilla* (Temminck)
(Beccari)

16) *Halcyon sancta sancta* Vigors and Horsfield
♀, May 8. (Beccari, Khakiaj)

17) *Tanysiptera* (*galatea*) *ellioti* Sharpe

This beautiful kingfisher had a decidedly international introduction to the world of natural history. Collected by Hoedt's collector, presumably David Hokum in 1867, the type specimen was acquired by Count Turati of Milan who sent it to Jules Verreaux in Paris for identification. There it was seen by Mr. Daniel Giraud Elliot of New York who advised that the specimen be sent to Dr. Sharpe in London who described it in 1869. Other specimens from Hoedt reached Leyden. Beccari collected the species for the Genoa Museum, one of the specimens of which came into the Rothschild collection and is now in New York.

The series collected by Jusup Khakiaj includes six adults, all labelled females, taken May 1-5, and two young birds

labelled males, taken May 1 and 2, in first winter or first basic plumage. The adults are alike in possessing a uniformly white rump and upper tail coverts, in this and the largely white tail bearing a certain resemblance to *sabrina* of the Moluccas.

This population has been kept separate from that complex of populations of the Moluccas, Papuan Islands and parts of the New Guinea mainland, all now included in the species *galatea*, on the basis of having tail feathers which are not sharply spatulate at the tip. This is essentially true as demonstrated by this series. All the adults except one possess broad central tail feathers, narrowing somewhat near their

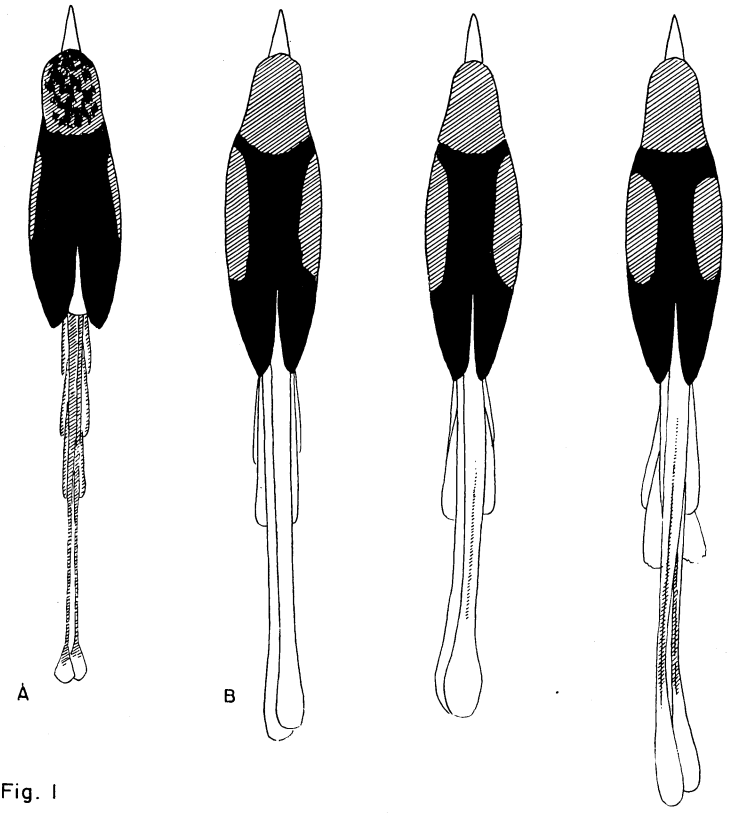

Figure 1. Three states of plumage and tail coloration of *Tanysiptera* (*galatea*) *ellioti*, B., contrasted with an adult of a more typical *Tanysiptera galatea* of the subspecies *margarethae*, A.

terminal ends and tapering slightly to a bluntly rounded and broad tip. In four cases the sub-terminal segment of the tail shaft where the feather shows signs of tapering is dull bluish black or blackish. In one of these birds a very narrow area of the vanes adjacent to the shaft is edged with blue. One adult has almost completely white tail feathers, only a trace of blackish shading appearing on the edge of the subterminal part of the shaft. (Fig. 1).

A single adult shows marked polymorphism. While the rump and upper tail coverts are white, and while the tips of the tail feathers are broadly and bluntly rounded, the subterminal area of the tail, representing a third of the total length of the central feathers is distinctly narrowed and the vanes strongly washed with blue. The effect is close to that of *T. g. sabrina.* This specimen is important in demonstrating the persistence of an old ancestral allele in what is not a completely homogeneous population. One is impressed that this is a species *in statu nascendi* or as Mayr has called it a form of "almost specific rank," (1942).

The young birds are interesting as Sharpe has noted (1892) in that the under parts are washed with "ochre" or rich brownish buff, with almost completely reduced marginal edgings of blackish so noticeable in other forms. These young birds have bright blue caps, scapulars and lesser and median wing coverts, and ultramarine upper back and primary coverts, the latter with reduced brownish edging. The feathers of the lower back and rump are largely pale brown with white centers and blackish margins, rather strikingly different from the rump of related forms. The tail feathers are blue above, very pale at the centers, and noticeably broader than young of other forms.

In these two birds the breast feathers are very badly frayed, indicating the wear of grubbing for insects in muddy jungle undergrowth.

Measurements: Wing 6 ♀ ad. 101.5-108 (105.5) mm.
Tail 6 ♀ ad. 153 (moult?)-215 (190.4).
Culmen 6 ♀ ad. 37-40
wing-tail ratio 5 ♀ ad. 49, 53, 54, 57, 64%

(Hokum, Beccari, Bruijn, Khakiaj).

18) *Merops ornatus* Latham
♂ ad. May 6. (Khakiaj)

19) *Pitta sordida novae-guineae* Müller and Schlegel
♂ ad. May 5. Wing 104. (Beccari, Khakiaj)

20) *Coracina tenuirostre müllerii* Salvadori
(Beccari)

21) *Coracina papuensis melanolora* (Gray)
♂, ♀ ad. May 9, Wing ♂ 150.5, ♀ 149; culmen (from skull) ♂ 31, ♀ 32. (Beccari, Khakiaj)

22) *Gerygone magnirostris occasa* Ripley
♂ ad. May 2. Type.

As pointed out in the original description (1957) this form differs from its geographical neighboring forms, *cobana*, *brunneipectus* and *conspicillata* from the neighboring islands of Waigeu, Batanta and Salawati; western New Guinea, and the Aru Islands by being much more richly yellow on the underparts. In the color of the underparts it approaches *rosseliana* from the Louisiade Archipelago and in color of the upperparts it is close to *affinis* from north New Guinea, an interesting example of pattern replacement in geographically related forms. (Khakiaj)

23) *Rhipidura rufiventris vidua* Salvadori and Turati
♂ ad. May 5.

A topotype of this subspecies, not collected for presumably eighty years. As Beccari points out (1875:707), David Hokum collected the original specimen for Hoedt who sent it to Turati. Wing 74.5, tail 75.5, culmen 16.

This form differs markedly from *gularis* the adjacent population of the Western Papuan Island by being much smaller (wing ♂ ♂ 83-92), the gray breast band marked with white spots, lacking in *gularis*, but present in *obiensis* and *kordensis*, and by having the abdomen and belly plain white, not washed with pinkish buff as in *gularis*. (Hokum, Beccari, Khakiaj)

24) *Monarcha alecto chalybeocephalus* (Garnot)
♂ ad. May 8. (Beccari, Khakiaj).

25) *Monarcha guttula* (Garnot)
(Beccari)

26) *Monarcha julianae* new species.*

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M. no. 39235) collected April 26, 1955, by Jusup Khakiaj on Kofiau Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

Diagnosis: from *guttula* this species which is known from a single adult male differs by being slightly larger, wing 81, tail 73.5, culmen 17; compared to a small series of *guttula* from Misool and Waigeu, ♂ ♂, wing 76.5-79, tail 67.5-71, culmen 14-16, [Gyldenstolpe's measurements (1955) are equivalent] and by the following differences in pattern and color: back bluish black rather than gray; wing coverts are bluish-black throughout, in *guttula* the inner wing coverts are grayish, the greater wing coverts are bluish black with pronounced white terminal spots; below the prominent black bib reduced to a narrow diamond-shaped throat patch, extending in a median point towards the upper breast, the white of the breast extending on the sides to the area below the eyes. Like *guttula* the tail of this species is black above, and below the outer four pairs of tail feathers are tipped with white, the outermost broadly so, the white area representing about 40% of the length of the feather.

This species is much more closely related to what I would prefer to call the *leucurus* superspecies and should be included in it, I believe. This superspecies consists of three additional populations as follows:

A) *Monarcha everetti* Hartert. This small Monarch flycatcher is found only on Tanahdjampea, an island of the Saleyer group south of Celebes and north of Flores, between five hundred and eight hundred miles west of the locus of its nearest relatives in the Moluccan-Papuan region. This species represents, as Rensch points out (1936) an incursion of papuan-australian origin into the lesser Sunda-Celebesian area, an area which is primarily of oriental affinity. I entirely agree with Mayr (1944) that

*This species is named, by gracious permission, in honor of Her Majesty, the Queen of the Netherlands.

this species has nothing to do with the widespread *Monarcha trivirgatus* as Meise attempted to demonstrate (1929). As Mayr notes, this is an "instance of ill-advised application of the principle of geographical representation." Simply because the widely distributed gray-backed scrub-inhabiting Spectacled Monarch happens to be absent from certain islands is no reason for including highly distinctively-plumaged arboreal-type Monarchs in the same species.

This species is smaller than its relatives, and differs from them in having a white rump, and by having a pronounced white patch on the inner margins of all but the outermost primary, and on all the secondaries making a poorly concealed white wing patch which must be extremely noticeable in flight. In addition, the black throat patch is like a large bib in shape, extending down onto the upper breast. The tail, which is rounded, has the four outer tail feathers tipped with white, the outermost white for half its length.

The female is gray above with whitish lores, the upper tail coverts buffy white and the tail black with whitish tips to the outermost feathers. Below the breast is light ochraceous-buff paling into grayish on the throat and sides of flanks and into dull creamy white on the abdomen. This female plumage is markedly different from the forms described hereafter.

In proportions of tail length to wing length and bill size, this species seems similar to its relatives to the east. In shape, however, the tail is much more rounded, the outer tail feathers being only 76% as long as the central tail feathers. It is also notably smaller; wing 3 ♂ ♂ 67.5-69; tail 67-70.5; culmen 15-16; ♀ wing 58.5, tail 60, culmen 14.5. This form is represented as "A" in Figure 2.

B) *Monarcha leucurus leucurus* Gray. This population occurs on the Kai Islands (also spelled Kei or Key) of extreme eastern Indonesia, south of the western end of New Guinea. With *loricatus* I believe it forms a species. Both are rather large Monarchs, blue black above with

a varying shape of throat patch below which extends narrowly onto the upper breast. The outer three pairs of tail feathers are white, some brownish margins occurring on the penultimate and third inner feathers. The fourth pair of tail feathers has a black inner web for the basal one-third of its length.

The female is dark bluish-gray on head and upper back, brownish gray on the lower back, upper tail coverts blackish gray, central tail feathers black; below center of throat gray, sides of throat and breast dark orange rufous, paling to warm brown on the flanks; center of abdomen white.

Size medium; wing 4 ♂ ♂ 75-80; tail 74-77; culmen 17-18; ♀ wing 71, tail 74, culmen 17.

This form is represented as "B" in Figure 2.

C) *Monarcha leucurus loricatus* Wallace. This population is found on the large island of Buru just west of Ceram. Although Stresemann (1914) mentions this form as occurring from the coast to the higher tableland and not higher than 800 meters in altitude, Toxopeus in Siebers (1921-22) found it only in the mountains at 1200 meters. This is the largest of the forms, the male blue-black above; below with a black throat patch just reaching the upper breast, and with a small patch of bluish black on the sides of the breast just before the bend of

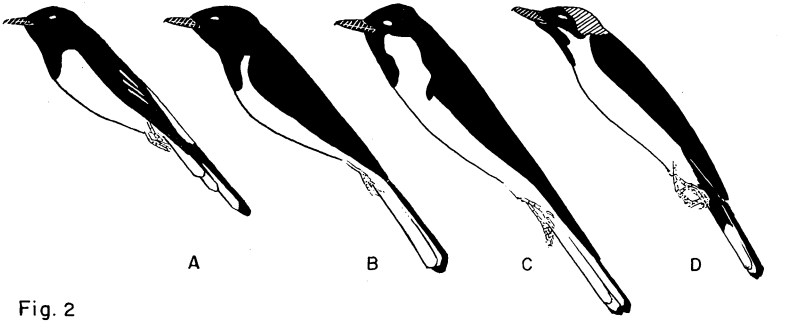

Fig. 2

Figure 2. *Monarcha everetti,* A; *Monarcha leucurus leucurus,* B; *Monarcha leucurus loricatus,* C; *Monarcha julianae,* D.

the wing. The tail is only slightly rounded, the outermost feathers being 83-86% of the length of the central tail feathers. The two pairs of outer tail feathers are white with some blackish along the base of the shaft, the third pair with a very narrow (2 mm.) black tip, and the fourth pair with a black tip some 10 mm. in width.

The female is brown on the forehead, more grayish, "hair-brown" on the crown and nape, and russet on the back, wing coverts and rump. The tail feathers are brownish black above. Below except for some grayish on the chin and center of the upper throat, the female is warm vinaceous brown. The outer tail feathers are rich buffy brown instead of white as in the female of *leucurus*.

Size largest; wing 4 ♂ ♂ 86-91; tail 72.5-85.5; culmen 17-20; female wing 77.5, tail 75.

This form is represented as "C" in Figure 2.

D) *Monarcha julianae*. The single male differs from *everetti* and *leucurus* by having a gray rather than bluish-black crown and nape, shading into the white of the neck behind the black auricular patch. Unlike *everetti* but like *leucurus*, the rump is concolorous with the back and there are no white patches on the inner margins of the wing feathers. Below *julianae* has a small roughly diamond-shaped throat patch, the white of the throat extending laterally forward to below the eyes. The outer tail feathers are tipped with white rather than largely white as in *everetti* or all white as in *leucurus*. The tail is somewhat rounded, the outermost feathers approximating 85% of the length of the central tail feathers.

This new species is represented as "D" in Figure 2. Unfortunately, the female of this new form is unknown. It would be interesting to know if the female is dimorphic as in the *leucurus* superspecies, and if so if it is predominantly russet in tone as in *leucurus* or grayish and isabelline as in *everetti*.

The fact that *julianae* can coexist on a small island the size of Kofiau along with the widespread *Monarcha guttula* (collected formerly by Beccari) is an example of

how little is understood of the ecology and niche relationships of the *Monarcha* species. *Monarcha guttula* is stated by Mayr (1944, *t.c.*) to belong to the *trivirgatus* group, although it cannot be considered a member of a superspecies as it overlaps with *trivirgatus* in the Louisiade Islands. Undoubtedly a close analysis of the feeding habits and spatial relations of these species will reveal a great deal about the problem of coexistence and competition. *Monarcha trivirgatus* in my experience is a bird of scrub, low bushes and substage vegetation, found from the coast up to 2500 feet altitude. *Monarcha guttula*, at least on Misool Island, was found in the substage and also high up in the lower storey of the canopy forest. Unfortunately, Jusup Khakiaj has not noted the position in the forest of the single male of *julianae* which he secured.

27) *Pachycephala phaionotum* (Bonaparte)
2 ♀ ad. May 3, 5. (Khakiaj)

28) *Dicrurus hottentotus atrocaerulus* Gray
2 ♀ ad. April 25.

Wing ♀, 150, 163; bill (using Vaurie's scale, 1949:284) 25, 25 mm.

These two specimens place the Kofiau birds with the large-billed population of Halmahera and Batjan Islands, rather than with the west New Guinea *carbonarius* where they had been assigned by previous authors including Vaurie (1949) who had not examined specimens. Thus the spangled drongo of Kofiau belongs to the Moluccan rather than the Papuan form. (Beccari, Khakiaj).

29) *Nectarinia sericea mariae*, new subspecies

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M. No. 39234), collected April 25, 1955, on Kofiau I., Netherlands New Guinea, by Jusup Khakiaj.

Diagnosis: compared to *cochrani* (Stresemann and Paludan) of Waigeu and Misool Islands, this form has a pansy-violet rather than steel-blue with a purplish gloss, throat patch. This color is nearer that of typical *sericea* which, however, is more bluish, merely shaded with aster purple (Ridgway, 1912). The cap color is far more greenish than in *sericea* or *cochrani*, approaching in this respect *auriceps* of the Moluccas

although it is less yellow-green than in that form. In the same way the iridescent color of the wing coverts, rump, and upper tail coverts is more greenish-blue rather than steel blue with a purplish-greenish gloss. This is especially noticeable in the area of the lower back. The single female appears somewhat brighter in color on the yellow underparts, nearer typical *sericea* than either *cochrani* or *auriceps*.

In size these birds also approach typical *sericea*:

	Wing	*Tail*	*Culmen*
2 ♂	59, 61	35, 37	18, 19
♀	54	32.5	18

A series of *cochrani* measured by Stresemann and Paludan (1932) showed wing measurements of 54-58, ♀ 51, and in *sericea* ♂ ♂ 60-64, ♀ 51.5-53 mm.

This Kofiau Island population represents an interesting example of discontinuous geographic variation of the type referred to so exhaustively by Mayr (tom. cit. 1942:77-84). If the distinguishing characters of the iridescent colors of the male *mariae* are contrasted with adjacent populations running from left to right as one travels from west to east the following discontinuous clinal pattern emerges:

	auriceps, Moluccas	*mariae*, Kofiau	*cochrani* W. Papuan Is.	*sericea*, New Guinea
throat color	bluish	pansy-violet	steel-blue	bluish shaded with aster purple; described as "reddish lilac" by Gyldenstople (1955:376)
cap color	golden-green	"chrysoprase-green" (Ridgway)	bluish-green, "tyrolite green (Ridgway)	bluish-green, "tyrolite-green"
rump and wing coverts	steel blue	yellowish blue green	bluish-green with a faint yellowish suffusion	bluish green with a faint yellowish suffusion

Named in honor of my wife, Mary Livingston Ripley.
Range: Kofiau Island (Beccari, Khakiaj).

29) *Nectarinia jugularis frenata* (Müller)
2 ♂ Apr. 24, 27. Wing, 54.5, 57.5. (Khakiaj)

30) *Philemon novaeguineae novaeguineae* (Müller)
Jusup Khakiaj failed to collect this noticeable bird for the same reasons that he missed securing the fruit pigeon. Both species tend to dwell in the upper heights of the trees. (Beccari).

2. New or noteworthy records from the Western Papuan Islands

1) *Procellaria pacifica chlororhyncha* Lesson
A male of this form from Kabaré, Waigeu Island taken by my assistant, Jusup Khakiaj, on October 8, 1955, appears to be the second record for New Guinea *vide* Mayr (1941:5).
Wing 267, tail 131, culmen (from external nares) 31.

2) *Goura cristata minor* Schlegel
A pair of Crowned Pigeons from Misool, the female in the melanic plumage sometimes encountered in this form, the throat and belly blackish, divided by a narrow smokey-blue chest band, the upper surface of the tail largely black, are considerably smaller than birds from Waigeu. In addition, a male from Misool recorded by Mayr and de Schauensee (1939) and a pair of birds in the American Museum collection are similarly small, wing ♂ ♂ 327-335, ♀ ♀ 320, 324. Waigeu birds measure: wing ♂ ♂ 350-365, ♀ ♀ 318 (1), 333-353. It is possible that additional material might reveal the existence of a distinct subspecies on Misool, which in several other instances seems to have evoked the emergence of populations with smaller dimensions than on the mainland of New Guinea or neighboring islands.

3) *Cuculus saturatus saturatus* Blyth
A male from Waigeu I. taken Sept. 24, 1955 with a wing measurement of 187.5 appears to belong to this small subspecies. Presumably the immature recorded by de Schauensee (1940) with a wing measurement of only 172 represents *saturatus* rather than *horsfieldi.*

4) *Collocalia vanikorensis granti* Mayr

Three males of this form were taken on Misool, a new record for that island. Wing measurements 114 (2), 116. In size they seem slightly smaller than typical *granti*, but are similar in color to that form.

5) *Coracina morio incertum* (Meyer)

A male of this form taken by me at Fafanlap, Misool I. on 27 November, 1954, is an extension of range of this species to that island.

6) *Eupetes caerulescens caerulescens* Temminck.

A male taken at Wasa, Misool I. by Jusup Khakiaj on February 6, 1955, substantiates the old record of Neumann's type of "*occidentalis*" as having come from "Waigama" on Misool. Wasa is not far from Waigama, but in any case the form ranges all over the island as we saw it in dense forest at Tamulol nearer the south coast.

7) *Pomatostomus isidori isidori* (Lesson and Garnot)

An unsexed adult taken in September, 1955, by Jusup Khakiaj appears to be a first record for Waigeu Island. This seems surprising in view of the work of Stein and Bergman.

8) *Rhipidura threnothorax threnothorax* Müller

At Tamulol on Misool, I collected a male specimen of this Fantail on November 14, 1954, which is a new record for the island. It does not differ from mainland New Guinea specimens and weighed 19 grams.

3. Birds from Ajoe Island

Ajoe is the largest of a group of coral islets about twenty-five miles north of Waigeu Island. It is a sandy island, about three miles by a mile and a half in area, rising to a height of nearly three hundred feet. It is covered with scrub and coconut palms and there are several villages of Besarese fishermen. These Besarese people, a mixture of Malay and Biak Island Papuan origin, are noted sailors in the region, and in former days practiced a certain amount of local piracy and free lance smuggling.

Jusup Khakiaj collected a few birds on September 1, 1955, on Ajoe, and as the island has not been visited by a collector before, it is worth noting that he obtained the following species: *Eos squamata squamata, Merops ornatus, Halcyon sancta sancta, Aplonis mysolensis mysolensis.*

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