

Halcyon macleayii cœruleus subsp. n.—The
Northern Forest Kingfisher.

BY EDWIN ASHBY, R.A.O.U.

The specimen described hereunder was obtained at Anson Bay, Northern Territory, in 1911, by my friend Mr. C. E. May, a gentleman to whom our State museum and myself have been indebted for many interesting ornithological specimens.

In the South Australian Museum is an immature specimen of the same species collected by Mr. May at Port Keats in the Northern Territory.

This immature specimen shows the same distinctive colouration as is present in the adult form except that it is speckled with pale rufous spots in the manner that is common to immature forms of other species belonging to the genus *Halcyon*.

DESCRIPTION.

Head, primaries and tail as in *Halcyon macleayii* (J. and S.) Greater, median and lesser wing coverts and mantle, brilliant azure to shot blue. Upper and lower back brilliant shot blue. Rump and uppertail coverts are an intense brilliant blue. Some of the deeper shades of blue in the wing coverts of *Pitta iris glâ* most nearly approach this shade of blue of any bird I am familiar with. Total length, 7.8 inches; culmen, 1.6 inches; tarsus, .5 inch; wing, 3.6 inches; bill, more slender than in *H. macleayii*; feet black.

Remarks.—This subspecies is easily distinguished from its congener *H. macleayii* by its much more intense and brilliant blue colouration, the green shades of the latter are entirely absent and the white collar of the hind-neck is more marked in the species under review. The specimen being a formalined one is unsexed though no doubt it is a male.

Further investigation may show this bird to be identical with *Halcyon macleayii distinguendus*—Matthews.

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