

14. *Ardea sacra*, Gm.

*Ardea sacra*, Finach and Hartl., Orn. Central-Polyn., p. 201 ; Sci., Proc. Zool. Soc., 1877, p. 555.

A specimen (No. 480) in grey plumage, with a few white feathers on the throat. [Eyes yellow ; legs had a yellowish tinge ; bill black.]

15. *Carpophaga rhodinolæma*, Scl. (Pl. IX.).

*Carpophaga rhodinolæma*, Scl., Proc. Zool. Soc., 1877, p. 555.

Supra æneo-viridis, alis caudaque saturationibus, remigibus et rectricibus intus nigricantibus ; capite et cervice totis et corpore inferiore canis ; genis gulaque rosaceo indutis ; crisso obscure castaneo ; mento et oculorum ambitu anguste albis ; rostro nigro ; pedibus rubris ; long. tota 12·6 ; alæ 9·3, caudæ 5·6.

*Habitat*.—Ins. Admiralitatis.

Four examples of this Fruit-Pigeon (Nos. 468, 469, 470, males ; 471, female) belonging to the group of *Carpophaga ænea* are in the collection. The figure (Pl. IX.) represents specimen 471.

The Marquis of Tweeddale, who kindly compared the birds for me with his series, wrote :—

“ Apart from its dimensions, this *Carpophaga* from the Admiralty Islands, only differs from individuals of *Carpophaga ænea*, ex Ceylon, Malabar, Central India, Burma, the Andamans, Borneo, Java, the Philippines, and Hainan, in having no rosy or vinous tint on the grey part of the plumage, excepting on that of the throat, cheeks, and ear-coverts. In example (No. 468) this is very well marked.

“ The outer webs of the primaries are not conspicuously powdered with grey as is the case in Central Indian, Burman, Javan, Bornean, Hainan, and Philippine examples. But I do not attach much importance to this difference at present, for I suspect this powdering comes on only when the quills are old, and indications are evident on some of the quills of No. 468.”

Mr Murray writes :—

“ These birds were in immense numbers, but more especially on a small island near the mainland, hence called ‘ Pigeon Island.’ On the first day four guns bagged 85 in two hours ; another day 230 were taken, another 200, another 150. This island was about two acres in extent. The pigeons always returned to it from the mainland, however much they were disturbed. It would seem to have been their usual breeding place. When our first party landed the birds were so tame they could be knocked over with a stick. Their nests consisted of crossed twigs and sticks, with layers of large leaves. Some of them were on the ground under dense masses of creepers. Three eggs were obtained. The stomachs generally contained the dark scarlet berries of a wild coffee tree.”