

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

TWO SPECIMENS OF *CHÆTURA CELEBENSIS* (SCLATER).

The United States National Museum has recently received the fifth and sixth known specimens of the great Celebesian swift from Dr. Daniel G. Beebe, a member of the Philippine Scientific Association, who, for some time past, has been engaged in the lumbering business, at Isabella, on the island of Basilan, P. I. This, one of the largest and handsomest, as well as almost the rarest known of the swifts, was described by Sclater (P. Z. S., p. 608, 1865) from two specimens from Manado, N. Celebes; after thirty years it was recorded from the Philippine island of Negros by Mr. W. Eagle Clarke; and, in March, 1895, a third Celebesian specimen was obtained by Messrs. P. and F. Sarasin from Tomohon.

The two skins sent by Dr. Beebe had been well prepared by Senor Ramon de Larracochea, of Isabella, Basilan, and reached the Museum in excellent condition. They are doubtless adult males, as they exceed in size the measurements of the three Celebes specimens; and both have two white spots on the sides of the forehead. The female figured in Meyer and Wigglesworth (Birds of the Celebes, pl. xii) has these spots reddish brown. This species has the upper tail-coverts greatly enlarged and with thickened shafts. The spiny shafts of the rectrices do not extend so far beyond the webs as in *Chætura gigantea* (Temminck).

From the skins (Nos. 192,474-5, U. S. National Museum) I have taken the following measurements: Length, 240, 255; wing, 215, 215; tail, 75, 75; bill from frontal feathers (chord), 8.5, 9.6; bill from anterior margin of nostril, 6.1, 7.1; tarsus, 19, 20; middle toe with claw, 22.5, 22.5 mm. The measurements of Celebesian adults is given as follows: "total length nearly 229 mm., wing 203, tail 71, tarsus 16.5." "A specimen in the Sarasin Collection marked '♀ juv.' (but we can not see any signs of immaturity)," measures: "wing 208 mm., tail 63, tarsus 16, nostril c. 6." (Meyer and Wigglesworth.)

Two American swifts—*Hemiprogne zonaris* (Shaw) and *H. semicollaris* (Saussure)—slightly exceed the dimensions of these Basilan specimens. "*Dagit dagit*," the name given to this species by the Basilan Moro natives, signifies swiftness.—*Edgar A. Mearns.*