

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW BELL-BIRD FROM AUCKLAND ISLAND.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

Among the birds the Museum of Comparative Zoology received from Mr. H. H. Travers was one skin of an adult male Bell-Bird from Auckland Island, which upon comparison proves to be so different from *Anthornis melanura* (Sparrrn.) of New Zealand or *A. melanocephala* Gray of the Chatham Islands that it, as well as its two congeners, must be given specific rather than subspecific rank. Upon inquiry I found that the U. S. National Museum had one adult male from Auckland Island from the same source as ours, and this together with their entire series of *A. melanura* and *A. melanocephala* was kindly sent me by Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, acting Curator of Birds. The two specimens exactly match and are not approached by any individual variation among skins from New Zealand or the Chathams.

The new bird may be known as—

***Anthornis incoronata* sp. nov.**

Type from Auckland Island, No. 40,008, Museum of Comparative Zoology, adult ♂. Collected by H. H. Travers.

Characters.—Similar in general to *A. melanura* (Sparrrn.) of New Zealand and *A. melanocephala* Gray of the Chatham Islands, and about intermediate in size—larger than the former, smaller than the latter; differing in color from both in the adult male (the female I have not seen) having the head almost without darker metallic gloss,—a faint metallic violet is just perceptible in a very narrow frontal band and slightly so on the ear coverts, the rest of the head is glossy oil-green, shining in certain lights with almost golden reflections. In the large Chatham Islands bird the whole head is dark, shining metallic-blue, in

the small New Zealand species the head is paler, a little less extensively shining and the color metallic-violet.

Measurements.—Type, adult ♂, wing, 96; tail, 90.5; tarsus, 28; exposed culmen, 15. No. 175,193, U. S. Nat. Mus., topotype, adult ♂, wing, 94; tail, 92; tarsus, 29; exposed culmen, 14.5. Averages of adult males of *A. melanura* are, wing, 88; tail, 84; tarsus, 25.5; exposed culmen, 14, while one fully adult male of *A. melanocephala* affords the following: wing, 100; tail, 96; tarsus, 34; exposed culmen, 15.5.