

POSTILLA

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A NEW FRUIT PIGEON FROM THE PHILIPPINES

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Recently while collecting in the Mount Canlaon area of Negros Island, on a joint Yale—Silliman University Expedition, Dr. Rabor secured a single female specimen of an unusual Fruit Dove. Comparison with specimens at Yale, at the American Museum of Natural History, and at the U. S. National Museum (through the courtesy of officials of those Institutions) reveals that this single specimen is unlike any other Fruit Dove presently known. It may be described as follows:

Ptilinopus arcanus n. sp.

Type: ♀ ad. (Y.P.M., No. 23535), collected May 1, 1953, by D. S. Rabor at Pula (Pulopantao), Mount Canlaon, Negros Island, Philippines.

Diagnosis: This Fruit Dove bears no resemblance to the other small Fruit Doves of the Philippines such as *Ptilinopus melanospila* or *superbus* (accidental in the Sulu Archipelago). In size and general pattern of coloration it resembles the species *viridis* of the southern Moluccas and New Guinea most closely. It differs from this species, however, in the solid-colored yellow under tail coverts, the more vivid green (not bronzy green) tone of the plumage, the whitish throat, and the more extensive yellow margins to the secondaries. There is no trace of gray on the greater wing coverts although scattered feathers on wings and back are

washed with a French green or plumbeus green tone. But more important perhaps, unlike the species *viridis* or indeed most other species of *Ptilinopus*, there is a large circle of naked skin around the eye, roughly 3 mm. wide in the dried specimen, pointing anteriorly towards the rictus. This area is far more prominent than in the species *hyogastra*, for example.

Another species to which this specimen might be compared is *P. monachus* of the north Moluccas from which it differs in the richer yellow under tail coverts, the yellow edging to the abdomen and vent feathers, and the prominent yellow edging to the secondaries.

A general description of *P. arcanus* is as follows: forehead French gray shading over the eye into apple green, a rich vivid tone characteristic of the upper and under plumage; first primary heavily emarginated; primaries blackish, secondaries and tertiaries shining emerald green with yellow edges becoming very marked on the inner tertiaries and greater wing coverts to make a distinct yellow wing bar in repose. Central tail feathers green, outer four pairs with blackish gray on the inner webs, and an ill-defined subterminal white spot. Occasional feathers at random on nape, back and wings show traces of a French green or plumbeus green tone. Throat whitish, shading into green of underparts, the breast and abdomen having a grayish effect due to the pronounced gray bases to the feathers showing through. Lower abdomen whitish, the feathers subterminally tipped green, shading to yellow on the vent; the under tail coverts entirely yellow. Bill (in the dried skin) black, feet evidently dull purplish red, orbital skin yellowish (in the dried skin).

Measurements: Wing 100, tail 54, culmen 13 mm.

Range: Known only from the slopes of Mount Canlaon, north-central Negros Island, Philippines.

Remarks: This specimen was one of a pair shot out of a large fruiting tree on the edge of a camp clearing, at an altitude of 3600 feet. The presumed mate was unfortunately lost in the undergrowth. It will be a matter of considerable interest to study the plumage pattern when the male of this species is discovered.