

No. 20. Tongatabu. Female, young.

[Common on the reefs at low water; also met with in the woods through the island. Shot July 21.]

No. 22. Tongatabu. Male. Shot July 22.

No. 19 is white, assuming the slate-coloured dress from below and on the back; slate-blue appanage in full development.

No. 20. Slate-blue, with white chin-stripe; the scapular appanage in beginning of development.

No. 22. White, sprinkled on the neck, back, and below with single slate-blue feathers; no development of scapular appanage visible.

On several occasions I have shown that the white dress in this Heron is not dependent upon age or sex, and that at present we are not able to explain the causes of these interesting differences in coloration satisfactorily.

### 9. *Porphyrio samoënsis*, Peale.

*Porphyrio samoënsis* et *Porphyrio vitiensis*, Peale.

*Porphyrio vitiensis*, F. and H., Ornith. Central-Polyn., p. 172, tom. xii. fig. 3.

*Porphyrio indicus*, Cass. (*nec* Horsf., *nec* F. and H.).

*Porphyrio vitiensis*, F. and H., Journ. f. Ornith., 1870, p. 135 (Tonga); H. and F., Proc. Zool. Soc., 1871, p. 27 (Savai).

*Porphyrio samoënsis*, Finsch, Journ. f. Ornith., 1872, p. 55; Proc. Zool. Soc., 1877, p. 726.

*Porphyrio vitiensis*, Layard, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1875, p. 439 (Fiji); *ibid.* 1876, p. 497 (Navigators'), and 1876, p. 503 (Tonga).

*Porphyrio indicus*, Whitmee (*nec* Horsf.), Ibis 1875, p. 446 (Samoa).

*Porphyrio calvus*, Elliot, Stray Feath., vol. vii. p. 16.

No. 21. Tongatabu. Female. [Eyes red. The only specimen seen. Shot July 22.]

Long. alæ.	Caud.	Rostr. a rius.	Rostr. scut. incl.	Lat. scut.	Long. tars.	Tib.	Dig. med.
in. liu. 8 6	in. 3	lin. 16½	in. liu. 2 3	lin. 9	in. liu. 3 10	lin. 15	in. lin. 2 9

I have already explained (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1871, p. 27) that *Porphyrio indicus*, Horsf., does not occur in Polynesia, as has been stated by Mr Cassin, but that the Central-Polynesian Islands (Fiji, Navigators' and Friendly group) possess only one species; *Porphyrio samoënsis*, Pealé. The description in the Ornithology of Central-Polynesia, p. 170, taken from a Javan specimen of the true *Porphyrio indicus*, Horsf., should therefore be cancelled altogether.