

## GENUS *ALCYONE*, *Swains.*

The Australian members of this genus are so intimately allied that I have only deemed it necessary to figure two species, viz. *Alcyone azurea* and *A. pusilla*; the two species not figured are both nearly allied to *A. azurea*, and may be considered its northern and southern prototypes, since the one to which I have given the name of *pulchra* inhabits the north coast, and the other, which I have called *Diemenensis*, inhabits Van Diemen's Land. The *A. azurea* inhabits the intermediate or rather the south-eastern portions of the country, but no species of the genus has yet been found in Western Australia. They all frequent the margins of rivers, and live on small fish and insects, and have many habits in common with the members of the genus *Alcedo*, of which the Kingfisher of Europe, *A. Ispida*, is the type. Although some species are found in New Guinea and the Indian Islands, Australia is the country in which birds of this form are most abundant.

66. *Alcyone pulchra*, *Gould.*

*Alcyone pulchra*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part XIV. p. 19.

All the upper surface shining purplish blue; wings brownish black; lores, tuft behind the ear, and throat buff; under surface deep ferruginous orange; sides of the chest fine purplish blue, passing into a rich vinous tint on the flanks; irides and bill black; feet orange. Total length 6 inches; bill, 2; wing,  $2\frac{7}{8}$ ; tail,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Inhabits the north coast of Australia.

This is the finest coloured species of the Australian *Alcyones*, and is distinguished by the beautiful vinous colouring of the flanks.