

THE KOOKABURRAS

Continued from the November Edition

#4 THE SPANGLED KOOKABURRA



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Illustration by
John Gerrard Keulemans
from
Richard Bowdler Sharpe's
Family of Kingfishers
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The Spangled Kookaburra, *Dacelo tyro*, is a little-known, but spectacular species of Kookaburra found only on the Aru Islands and the savannahs of southern New Guinea. It has bright blue wings and tail, a white chest and belly, dark eyes, and a striking white-spotted black head. Practically nothing is known of its family life or breeding biology.

The Aru Islands are covered by a mix of tropical moist broadleaf forests, savannah and mangroves.

They lie on the Australia-New Guinea continental shelf, and were connected to Australia and New Guinea by land when sea levels were lower during the ice



ages. The flora and fauna are part of the Australasian ecozone, and are closely related to that of New Guinea

This Kookaburra has a habitat estimated to cover twenty to fifty thousand square kilometres. The total population size has not been established, but is thought to be quite large, as the species is common in some parts of its range.

Reference: Wikipedia

Map: "Michiel1972"