

ZOSTEROPS STRENUUS, *Gould.*

Robust Zosterops.

Zosterops strenuus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., July 24, 1855.

THE present new species is the largest member yet discovered of a group of birds comprising numerous species, and which are very generally dispersed over the old world from India to Australia; some of the islands of the South Pacific are also tenanted by their own peculiar species; Norfolk Island claims two which have not been found elsewhere, and we now find that Lord Howe's Island, although but scantily supplied with vegetation, is not devoid of bird-life even of the great order of Insessores, it being inhabited by at least two species of the present genus. Her Majesty's Ship Herald, commanded by Captain Denham, having paid a visit to this interesting spot in the wide ocean, Mr. MacGillivray had an opportunity of extending his fame as a successful naturalist by securing and sending, with many other interesting objects, an example of each of these species, which I find to be quite different from all others that have come under my notice. The bird here represented is the larger of the two, and its prominent characters consist in its comparatively great size, robust form of body and unusually lengthened and powerful bill; at the same time, in the general style of its colouring, in its snow-white eye-ring, and in all other essential points, it closely agrees with the other species of the genus of which it is a member.

The only specimen of this new bird which has yet been transmitted to this country, now forms part of the National Collection, where all the other novelties which may be acquired by Captain Denham's Expedition will be deposited.

Head and upper surface bright olive-green, with a mark of dark grey across the shoulders; wings and tail slaty-brown, margined with greenish-olive; eyes surrounded by the usual ring of white feathers, beneath which is a narrow line of black; chin and throat yellow; flanks pale vinaceous-brown; centre of the abdomen nearly white; under tail-coverts pale yellow; bill and feet bluish-black.

The figures are of the natural size.