

HERODIAS PLUMIFERUS, *Gould.*

Plumed Egret.

Herodias plumiferus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., November 23, 1847.

No one of the members of the beautiful genus *Herodias* is more interesting than the present species, inasmuch as it is not only adorned with the redundancy of graceful plumes springing from the back, common to the other species, but it has a mass of feathers of precisely the same structure depending from the lower part of the neck and the chest. In size it is directly intermediate between *H. symmatophorus* and *H. immaculata*. I possess a specimen from the Namoi, in the southern part of Australia, and another from the north coast; and I have also a third from Torres Straits, which proves that its range is very extensive; the latter example is destitute of the lengthened plumes, which are probably only assumed during the breeding-season.

The entire plumage is pure white; bill and orbits yellow; feet and lower part of the tarsi black; upper part of the tarsi inclining to flesh-colour.

The figure is somewhat under the natural size.