

PETROICA ERYTHROGASTRA.

Norfolk Island Robin.

Muscicapa erythrogastra, Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. ii. p. 479.—Gmel. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 944.

——— *multicolor*, Gmel. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 944.

Red-bellied Flycatcher, Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. iii. p. 343. pl. 50.—Ib. Supp., vol. ii. p. 216.—Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. x. p. 400. pl. 32.—Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. vi. p. 209. pl. C.—Shaw, Nat. Misc., pl. 147.

Petroica pulchella, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VII. p. 142, male.

——— *modesta*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part V. p. 147, female.

I HAVE been induced to give a figure of this Robin, which I believe to be strictly confined to Norfolk Island, in order to clear up the confusion which has hitherto existed respecting it and the *Petroica multicolor*, with which it has been confounded. Under the impression that the two birds were identical, and that the terms *erythrogastra* and *multicolor* were synonymous, I was induced some years ago to characterize the male of the present bird under the name of *pulchella*, and the female under that of *modesta*, believing as I then did that it was a distinct species; subsequent research has however enabled me to perceive the errors into which I had fallen, and I now proceed to point out the differences between the two species, and to restore to the Norfolk Island bird the term *erythrogastra*, originally applied to it by Latham. The *P. erythrogastra* may be distinguished then from its near ally by the greater size of the bill; by the greater extent and more silvery hue of the white feathers on the forehead; by the tail being wholly black, while in the *P. multicolor* the lateral feathers are white; by the white on the wing forming a large spot near the shoulder, instead of a line as long as the secondaries; and by the scarlet of the breast and abdomen being much more intense in colour: the females of the two birds also differ from each other, the tail of the *P. erythrogastra* being wholly brown, while that of the *P. multicolor* has the lateral tail-feathers marked with white.

The male has the forehead silvery white; a small patch on the wings near the shoulder, under wing-coverts, the flanks and under tail-coverts white; chest and abdomen very rich scarlet, the remainder of the plumage deep black; bill black; feet brown.

The female has the crown of the head, all the upper surface, wings and tail reddish brown; throat white, tinged with brown; chest and centre of the abdomen washed with scarlet; lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts white; flanks brown; bill blackish brown; feet yellowish brown.

The figures represent the two sexes of the natural size.