

Genus Ptilotis, Swains.

The species of this group are not only more numerous than those of any other division of the *Meliphagidae*, but they also comprise some of the most beautiful and gaily-coloured members of the family. Nearly all the species are either prettily marked about the face, or have the ear-coverts largely developed and characterized by a colouring different from that of the other parts of the plumage. The *Eucalypti* and *Acaciæ* are the trees upon which they are usually found; the species with olive-green backs, such as *P. flavigula* and *P. leucotis*, frequent the dwarf or thickly-leaved kinds, the foliage of which assimilates in colour to that of their plumage; the more gaily-attired species with bright yellow cheeks and ear-coverts, such as *P. ornatus* and *P. plumulus*, are most frequently found among the flowering *Acaciæ*; some species, particularly *P. penicillata*, descend from the trees and seek Coleoptera and other insects on the ground; the *Casuarinæ* are the favourite trees of *P. sonorus* and *P. versicolor*; while the *P. chrysotis*, *P. chrysops* and *P. fusca* are almost entirely confined to the brushes and seek their food among the *Eucalypti*, the hanging festoons of *Tecoma* and other beautiful brush creepers. The members of this group are principally Australian, but I believe that some species inhabit New Guinea; they mainly subsist upon insects, to which berries are sometimes added.

The sexes are alike in plumage, but the females are smaller than the males, and the young assume the adult livery from the nest.

283. <i>Ptilotis chrysotis</i>	Vol. IV. Pl. 32.
<i>Ptilotis Lewinii</i> , Swains. Class. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 326?	
284. <i>Ptilotis sonorus</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 33.
285. <i>Ptilotis versicolor</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 34.
286. <i>Ptilotis flavigula</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 35.
287. <i>Ptilotis leucotis</i>	Vol. IV. Pl. 36.
288. <i>Ptilotis auricomis</i>	Vol. IV. Pl. 37.
289. <i>Ptilotis cratitius</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 38.
290. <i>Ptilotis ornatus</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 39.
291. <i>Ptilotis plumulus</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 40.
292. <i>Ptilotis flavescens</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 41.
293. <i>Ptilotis flava</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 42.
294. <i>Ptilotis penicillatus</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 43.
295. <i>Ptilotis fusca</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 44.
296. <i>Ptilotis chrysops</i>	Vol. IV. Pl. 45.
297. <i>Ptilotis unicolor</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 46.

Genus Plectorhyncha, Gould.

Generic characters.

Bill shorter than the head, slightly arched, very pointed, almost conical and acute; *nostrils* basal and partly covered by an operculum; an obsolete notch near the tip of the upper mandible; *wings* moderate, the first feather short, the third and fourth the longest; *tail* moderate and square; *tarsi* strong; hind-toe and claw long, powerful and longer than the middle toe and claw; lateral toes unequal; the outer one the longest, and united to the middle one nearly to the first joint.

Of this singular form only one species has yet been discovered. It inhabits the plains of the eastern portion of Australia, where it dwells among the *Eucalypti* and *Acaciæ*; and is a very noisy garrulous bird.

The sexes are alike in plumage, and the young assume the adult plumage at a very early age.

298. <i>Plectorhyncha lanceolata</i> , Gould	Vol. IV. Pl. 47.
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Genus Xanthomyza, Swains.

Of this genus only one species is known.