

## ENICURUS GUTTATUS, *Gould.*

### Spotted Forktail.

*Enicurus guttatus*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc. 1865, p. 664.

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IN my account of *Enicurus maculatus* I have stated that two species of this genus had been confounded, but I ought, perhaps, to have said that one had been characterized, instead of two. In the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' above referred to I have pointed out the principal differences by which these two nearly allied birds may be distinguished; and as they cannot be more clearly defined, it will be as well to reproduce the paragraph here.

"This species must not be confounded with the *Enicurus maculatus*, to which it is very nearly allied; for it differs from that bird in having a much shorter and smaller tail, in having a round spot instead of a crescentic mark of white at the tip of each of the feathers of the mantle, in the white mark on the forehead being of lesser size, in having the crown suffused with brown, and in the absence of any white markings on the lower part of the chest.

"The *E. guttatus* may be regarded as the eastern representative of the *E. maculatus* of the great Himalayan range."

Three skins of each species are now before me, and nothing can be more apparent than the distinctions above pointed out, and which will readily be perceived on a comparison of the figures of the two species. In none of the specimens of *E. guttatus* is there any appearance of the lunate markings seen in *E. maculatus*, each spot being perfectly round and about the size of a number six shot. A few lunate white marks appear on the lower edge of the black feathers of the breast of *E. maculatus*; but there are no corresponding marks on the same part in *E. guttatus*. That these round-spotted birds cannot be immature examples of *E. maculatus* is certain, since the hue of the black portions of their plumage is still more intense.

Forehead white; crown of the head black, suffused with brown, remainder of the head, neck, throat, and breast deep black; down the sides of the neck a series of silky white feathers narrowly bordered with black; upper half of the back black, with a round spot of white at the tip of each feather; lower half of the back and upper tail-coverts white; wings black, the tips of the greater coverts and the bases of the secondaries white, forming a band across the wing, the innermost secondaries are also tipped with white; primaries dark brown; two lateral tail-feathers white, the remainder black, tipped with white; lower half of the abdomen and under tail-coverts white; bill black; tarsi and toes fleshy-white.

The figures are of the natural size. The plant is one of the varieties of *Pteris quadriaurita*.