

## GYMNOCREX PLUMBEIVENTRIS.

### Grey-bellied Rail.

- Rallus plumbeiventris*, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1861, pp. 432, 438.—Finsch, Neu-Guinea, p. 180 (1865).  
*Rallina plumbeiventris*, Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, *Ralli*, pp. 17, 78 (1865).—Id. Ned. Tijdschr. Dierk. iii. p. 349 (1866).—Gray, Hand-l. B. iii. p. 58, no. 10402 (1871).—Sharpe, Journ. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 505 (1877).  
*Rallus hoeveni*, Rosenb. Nat. Tijdschr. Nederl. xxix. p. 144 (1867).—Schlegel, Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk. iii. p. 349 (1866).—Rosenb. Reis naar Zuidoostereil. p. 53 (1867).  
*Rallus intactus*, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869, p. 120, pl. x.—Tristram, Ibis, 1882, p. 144.  
*Rallina intacta*, Gray, Hand-l. B. iii. p. 58, no. 10404 (1871).  
*Gymnocrex plumbeiventris*, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 793 (1875).—D'Albert. & Salvad. op. cit. xiv. p. 129 (1879).—Salvad. op. cit. xviii. p. 320 (1882).—Id. Orn. della Papuasias e delle Molucche, iii. p. 268 (1882).

MR. WALLACE first discovered the present species of Rail in the island of Mysol, and the Dutch travellers Dr. Bernstein and Mr. Bruijn afterwards procured it in the Moluccan Islands of Morty or Morotai and Halmahéra. Von Rosenberg has also met with it in the Aru Islands, and Signor D'Albertis found it on the Fly River in Southern New Guinea. It had previously been brought by Mr. Stone from Momile, a locality in South-western New Guinea, to the interior of Port Moresby. As Count Salvadori has pointed out, we erroneously spoke of the original specimen as coming from Morty Island instead of Mysol, when we were describing Mr. Stone's collection. A bird procured in the Solomon Islands and forwarded by Mr. Gerrard Krefft, of Sydney, to Dr. Sclater, was named by him *Rallus intactus*. Count Salvadori has carefully examined the latter specimen and compared it with the type, and has come to the conclusion that the two are identical.

Nothing is known of the habits of this fine Rail, which, on account of its bare face, is included by Count Salvadori in his genus *Gymnocrex*, along with *G. rosenbergi* of Schlegel, from Celebes.

The following is a description of the type specimen :—

*Adult*. General colour above ochraceous brown; wing-coverts like the back, the greater coverts with a reddish tinge externally; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills chestnut, with a little ochreous brown at the tips and on the outer web, the inner secondaries ochraceous brown like the back; lower back, rump, upper-tail coverts, and tail-feathers black; crown of head and hind neck deep chestnut, as also the lores, sides of face, ear-coverts, cheeks, throat, sides of neck, and fore neck, with the throat paler and more ashy whitish; chest and remainder of under surface leaden grey, blacker on the abdomen, sides of body, and flanks; thighs leaden grey; under tail-coverts black; under wing-coverts and axillaries black, mottled with broad white tips at the end of the feathers; quills below chestnut, a little more dusky at the ends. Total length 13 inches, culmen 2·1, wing 7·1, tail 2·7, tarsus 2·2.

The figure in the Plate represents an adult bird of the size of life, and has been drawn from the type specimen of *Rallus intactus*, recently presented by Dr. Sclater to the British Museum.

[R. B. S.]