HYLOTERPE PHILIPPINENSIS, *Walden.*

Philippine-Islands Thickhead.

Hyloterpe philippinensis, Wald. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 4, vol. x. p. 252 (1872).—Id. Trans. Zool. Soc. ix. pp. 179, 250, pl. 31. fig. 2 (1875).—Sharpe, Trans. Linn. Soc. ser. 2, Zoology, i. p. 351.—Tweedd. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1878, p. 109.—Wardlaw Ramsay, Ornith. Works of Marquis of Tweeddale, pp. 234, 344, 568, 656 (1881).

Captain Wardlaw Ramsay has been so good as to lend me several birds from the celebrated collection formed by his late uncle the Marquis of Tweeddale; and I have great pleasure in introducing to the notice of my readers the very interesting species here figured. It is principally interesting as being an intrusion of a thoroughly Australian form within the limits of the Indo-Malayan region; for although I follow Lord Tweeddale in keeping the genus *Hyloterpe* distinct from the Australian *Pachycephala*, I must confess that I have very grave doubts as to the probability of this separation being upheld. In the genus *Hyloterpe*, however, the sexes are alike in plumage, whereas in the bulk of the members of the genus *Pachycephala* the males far exceed the females in brilliancy of plumage; in fact, both sexes of *Hyloterpe* are very like the females of some of the *Pachycephala*.

I cannot do better than quote Lord Tweeddale's remarks on the species in his paper on the Birds of the Philippine Archipelago, to which the bird appears to be confined. It was first discovered by Dr. A. B. Meyer in the island of Luzon, and more recently in Dinagat by Mr. Alfred Everett.

"Dr. Meyer's researches in the Philippines have added an additional member of a genus hitherto not known to be there represented. The small group of Pachycephaline birds to which the title of *Hyloterpe* is restricted is now known to contain six species. They are entitled to subgeneric distinction. The sexes are, I believe, alike; and they possess the further peculiarity that they wear, in adult plumage, a sombre garb recalling the adolescent and the female plumage of the true black-and-yellow *Pachycephalæ*. This Philippine species is a representative form of *H. sulphuriventris*, Walden, ex Celebes. Above, it differs by its plumage being olive-green, and not brown, and underneath by the yellow extending higher and being much brighter. The bill is likewise more powerful. Seen from above, *H. philippinensis* is difficult to distinguish from *H. fulvotincta*, Wallace, ex Flores; while, in the same way, *H. sulphuriventris* closely resembles *H. griseiceps* ex N. Guinea. Seen from below, however, the affinities are reversed, the Flores *Hyloterpe* showing a great resemblance to that of Timor, *H. orpheus* (Jard.), and the Celebean and Philippine species but differing slightly."

The following is a copy of Lord Tweeddale's original description of the male bird sent by Dr. Meyer:—"Feathers of the chin, cheeks, throat, and upper breast silky white, edged more or less with cinereous, a dingy sordid aspect being thus given to those parts; an indistinct obscure zone crossing the breast and bordering the upper breast-plumage, consisting of feathers which are dark ashy at their base, then pure white, tipped with dirty yellow; the remainder of the under plumage, with the flanks and under tail-coverts, sulphur-yellow, each feather, however, being iron-grey at the base and then white; entire head dark smoke-brown, lighter on the ear-coverts; remainder of upper plumage olive-green, rather darker on the outer edges of the quills and on the rectrices; under carpals and axillaries pale lemon-white; tail slightly forked; bill horn-brown. Bill from nostrils 0·32 inch, wing 3·25, tail 3·12, tarsus 0·75."

Mr. Alfred Everett, as before noticed, procured both sexes of this *Hyloterpe* on Dinagat, and states that the iris is dark brown, the bill black, and the legs bluish grey.

My figures are drawn from a pair of skins from Dinagat, for the loan of which I have to thank Captain Wardlaw Ramsay. The sexes are represented as of the size of life.

[R. B. S.]