

CARPOPHAGA SUBFLAVESCENS, *Finsch.*

Yellow-tinted White Fruit-Pigeon.

Carpophaga subflavescens, Finsch, Ibis, 1886, p. 2.

In the great group of Fruit-Pigeons the lovely white species, of which one is now figured, are some of the most prominent, and they have been separated into a distinct genus *Myristicivora*, which is recognized by some of the best authorities. For our own part, we consider them to be true *Carpophagæ* in form, though of a distinct type of coloration, which may at least be deemed worthy of subgeneric separation.

The late Professor Schlegel used to rank all the white Fruit-Pigeons as belonging to one single species, instead of recognizing three; and in 1875 we ourselves came to a similar conclusion, as, although we could clearly perceive the characters on which *C. spilorrhoa* and *C. melanura* had been separated from *C. bicolor*, yet there seemed to be no definite geographical habitat for any of them, and, as species, they appeared to range into one another. Count Salvadori, however, has solved the problem. In the Moluccas he restricts the range of *C. melanura* (as far as at present known) to Halmahëra, Bourou, and Little Ké, while *C. spilorrhoa* is found all over New Guinea, the islands of the Bay of Geelvink, and the Aru group. These are resident in the above-named localities; and although *C. bicolor*, the common Indo-Malayan species, is also found in Halmahëra, New Guinea, and the Ké and Aru Islands, it is doubtless as a migrant. The present species was discovered by Dr. Otto Finsch during his explorations in the Western Pacific. He states that he procured a pair in the north-west corner of New Ireland, where, however, it was not common.

The following is a description of the typical specimen, which is now in the British Museum:—

Adult female. General colour above and below white, everywhere strongly tinted with yellow; region of the eye white; all the wing-coverts and the innermost secondaries white, strongly washed with yellow; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills black, slightly shaded externally with grey; upper tail-coverts and basal half of tail white tinged with yellow, the terminal half of the tail black, which decreases in extent towards the outermost feathers; under tail-coverts white, very strongly tinged with yellow, and having a broad black band at the end of each feather; under wing-coverts and axillaries white washed with yellow: "iris dark brown; bill greenish, with the tips yellow; feet plumbeous" (*O. Finsch*). Total length 14 inches, culmen 1·2, wing 9·0, tail 4·7, tarsus 1·35.

The figure in the Plate represents an adult bird of the size of life.

[R. B. S.]