

PTILOPUS RIVOLII.

Massena Fruit-Pigeon.

Columba rivoli, Knip & Prév. *Pigeons*, ii. pl. 57 ; Des Murs, *Iconogr. Ornith.* pl. 4 (1845).

Iotreron rivollii, Bp. *Consp. Gen. Av.* ii. p. 25 (1857).

Ionotreron rivollii, Reichenb. *Taub.* p. 100, Taf. 235. fig. 1306.

Ptilonopus rivoli, Wall. *Ibis*, 1865, p. 381.

Ptilonopus solomonensis, Gray, *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* v. p. 328 (1870).

Ptilopus rivolii, Sclater, *P. Z. S.* 1877, p. 109.—Elliot, *P. Z. S.* 1878, p. 561.—Salvad. *Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov.* ix. p. 196 (1877) ; id. xii. p. 345 (1878).

CONSIDERABLE uncertainty has existed with regard to the exact locality where this Fruit-Pigeon was to be found ; but one may now accept as a fact that it inhabits Duke-of-York Island, whence specimens have been forwarded by Mr. Brown to Dr. Sclater ; and future research will doubtless extend its range to New Ireland. Mr. Elliot also believes that it inhabits the Solomon Islands, as he considers that the *P. solomonensis* described by the late Mr. G. R. Gray is only the young of *P. rivolii*.

The present bird belongs to the white-banded section of the genus *Ptilopus*, which includes also *P. prasinorrhous* of New Guinea and the neighbouring groups of islands, and *P. strophium* of the Louisiade archipelago. The latter bird, however, has no rose-coloured spot on the abdomen, and is therefore easily distinguished. *P. prasinorrhous* has the vent and under tail-coverts green, edged with yellow, whereas in *P. rivolii* these parts are bright yellow.

I transcribe the following detailed description given by Mr. Elliot in his paper on the genus :—

“*Male*. Forehead purplish red ; breast crossed by a broad white band ; a large rose-red spot on the abdomen ; lower part of abdomen, crissum, and under tail-coverts bright yellow ; rest of plumage bright green, with some small, round, bluish-black spots on the scapulars. In its dimensions this species agrees with *P. prasinorrhous*.

“*Female*. General plumage bright green.”

I am indebted to Dr. Sclater for the loan of the beautiful pair of birds of which I have drawn life-sized figures in the accompanying Plate. They were collected in Duke-of-York Island by Mr. G. Brown ; and I have other specimens from the same source in my own collection.