

## PTILOPUS BELLUS, *Sclater*.

### Purple-bellied Fruit-Pigeon.

*Ptilonopus bellus*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1873, p. 696, pl. 57.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. vii. p. 786 (1875).  
*Ptilopus bellus*, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. ix. p. 197 (1876), x. p. 157 (1877).—Elliot, P. Z. S. 1878, p. 563.

THE elaborate monograph recently compiled by Mr. D. G. Elliot on the Fruit-Pigeons of the genus *Ptilopus* renders a study of this numerous group a much easier task than it has been for many years past; and I must acknowledge the help which I have derived from that treatise of the above-named author, whose industry and devotion to ornithological science have been proved by the many valuable papers and works which have issued from his pen during the last few years.

The subject of the accompanying Plate is one of the most beautiful of all the *Ptilopi*, which contain such a number of strikingly marked Fruit-Pigeons, many of them endeared to me by old Australian recollections and by the pleasure with which I look forward to illustrating all the varied forms of Fruit-Pigeons inhabiting the Malay archipelago. The *Ptilopus bellus* was first discovered by Signor D'Albertis during his celebrated expedition to North-western New Guinea, in Atam; and it has since been procured in the Arfak Mountains by M. Laglaize, and at Amberbaki by M. Raffray; so that the habitat of the present species would appear to be the north-western corner of New Guinea, particularly the vicinity of the Arfak Mountains. It belongs to the section of the genus *Ptilopus* which contains species having a broad white or yellow breast-band: in the case of the present bird and its near ally *P. speciosus*, the breast-band is lemon-yellow above, white beneath; and it is distinguished from the latter species by the forehead and crown being rosy red instead of green, and by the abdominal spot being purplish red instead of lilac. It is also a larger bird than the nearly allied species.

Mr. Elliot, from whose synoptic table the above characters have been derived, gives the following description of the species:—

“*Male*. Front and crown deep rosy red; occiput dark bluish green; breast covered by a broad half-moon-shaped band, pure white on the lower parts and sides, lemon-yellow on the upper part; the abdomen has the middle portion covered by a purplish red patch; entire rest of plumage yellowish green, with small, round, bluish-black spots on the scapulars, and the feathers of the crissum and under tail-coverts edged with yellow; primaries greenish black, the first not narrowed; tail yellowish green, with a pale apical band of the same colour; bill yellow; feet dark red; iris yellow. Total length  $9\frac{1}{4}$  inches, wings  $3\frac{3}{4}$ , tail  $3\frac{3}{4}$ , culmen  $\frac{5}{8}$ .”

Signor D'Albertis describes the bill as yellow, the feet as dull crimson, and the eyes as yellow.

The Plate represents the type specimen, kindly lent to me by Dr. Sclater during its stay in this country. It is now in the Genoa Museum.