

PTILOPUS SOLOMONENSIS, *Gray.*

Solomon-Island Fruit-Pigeon.

Ptilonopus solomonensis, Gray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) v. p. 328 (1870).

Ptilopus solomonensis, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. ix. p. 196 (1876).—Giebel, Thes. Orn. iii. p. 368.—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, iv. p. 74, note (1879).—Salvad. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, iii. p. 50 (1882).

Ptilopus rivoli (pt.), Elliot, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1878, p. 561.—Salvad. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1879, p. 65.

Ptilopus ceraseipectus, Tristr. Ibis, 1879, p. 442.—Salvad. Ibis, 1880, p. 131.—Tristr. Ibis, 1880, p. 247.

Ptilopus salomonis, Salvad. Ibis, 1880, p. 131.

This species was at first described by the late Mr. George Robert Gray, from a specimen collected by Mr. Brenchley in the Solomon Islands. Unfortunately the typical specimen was a female, and it was considered by Count Salvadori and Mr. Elliot to be in all probability the hen bird of *Ptilopus rivoli*. Canon Tristram having described a new Fruit-Pigeon from the Solomon Islands as *P. ceraseipectus*, discovered in Makira Harbour by Captain Richards, Count Salvadori suggested that this might be the bird described by Gray as *P. solomonensis*, and on comparison of specimens Canon Tristram found that this was the case.

The only difference that we can perceive between the present species and *P. johannis* from the Admiralty Islands is the colour of the fore part of the head, which in the present species is rich purplish red, instead of being lilac-colour as in *P. johannis*. Count Salvadori also mentions that the breast-patches of the two birds also vary in an equal degree; but in the specimens examined by us this has not been so strongly pronounced as the variation in the colour of the heads of the two species.

The following is a description of an adult bird lent to us by Mr. E. P. Ramsay:—

Adult male. General colour above grass-green, the scapulars having subterminal spots of purplish black; wing-coverts like the back; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills blackish, externally dark grass-green, the primaries washed with dull greenish grey, the inner primaries greenish at their ends, with a conspicuous subterminal shade of ashy grey; secondaries like the back, the outer ones with a narrow fringe of yellow; two centre tail-feathers green, the remainder green externally, grey at the base and near the end of the inner web, with a broad subterminal band of blackish; forehead rich purplish lilac, extending above each eye and on to the lores; ear-coverts, cheeks, throat, and fore neck green, paler on the chin and upper throat; on the chest a broad crescentic band of bright yellow; centre of the breast and abdomen purplish lilac; sides of the body and flanks green; thighs green externally, edged with yellow internally; lower abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts rich yellow; axillaries and under wing-coverts slaty grey, washed with green; quills slaty grey below. Total length 8·5 inches, culmen 0·65, wing 4·75, tail 2·75, tarsus 0·85.

Two figures are given in the Plate, representing the adult male in two positions. They are drawn from the specimen lent to us by Mr. E. P. Ramsay.

[R. B. S.]