

ZOSTEROPS RENDOVÆ, *Tristr.*

Rendova White-eye.

Tephras olivacea, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, vi. p. 180 (1881, nec *Zosterops olivacea* (L.)).

Zosterops ramsayi, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. xviii. p. 425 (nec Masters).

Zosterops rendovæ, Tristram, Ibis, 1882, p. 135.—Salvad. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, iii. p. 546 (1882).—Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, vii. p. 42 (1883).—Sharpe, Cat. Birds in Brit. Mus. ix. p. 188 (1884).

THE genus *Zosterops* contains several species which have not the white eyelid upon which the trivial name of "White-eye" is founded, and the present bird belongs to the section in which this peculiar character is not developed. All such species are at least subgenerically distinct from *Zosterops*, and in that case the genus *Tephras* might well be employed, as has been done by Mr. Ramsay in the present instance.

The original specimen was procured by Lieut. Richards in the Island of Rendova in the Solomon Archipelago, and was described by Mr. Ramsay as *Tephras olivacea*. Count Salvadori, considering that *Tephras* was congeneric with *Zosterops*, gave to the Rendova species the name of *Zosterops ramsayi*, as there was already a *Zosterops olivacea* of Linnæus, from the Island of Réunion. Mr. Masters had, however, previously bestowed Mr. Ramsay's name on a species of the genus, and therefore the bird must be called *Zosterops rendovæ*, which title was given to the identical specimen procured by Lieut. Richards when it came into Canon Tristram's hands in England, and the latter author recognized at the same time that the name *Z. olivacea* was pre-occupied in ornithology.

We have copied the description of the type specimen given in our 'Catalogue of Birds':—

"General colour above uniform olive-yellow, a little brighter across the rump; wing-coverts like the back, a little yellower on the median and greater coverts; bastard-wing feathers dusky, washed with olive; primary-coverts and quills blackish, externally olive-yellow, brighter on the edge of the primaries; upper tail-coverts olive-yellow; tail-feathers blackish, washed with olive-green near the base; crown of head and lores like the back; no ring of white feathers round the eye; in front of the eye a dusky spot; ear-coverts, cheeks, and throat olive-yellow, scarcely brighter than the upper surface; fore neck, breast, and abdomen bright yellow, greener on the sides of the body and flanks; thighs and under tail-coverts bright yellow; under wing-coverts and axillaries white, washed with bright yellow; quills below dusky; inner edge of quills ashy white tinged with yellow. Total length 4·6 inches, culmen 1·65, wing 2·55, tail 1·8, tarsus 0·7."

The Plate gives two representations of this species, of the natural size, the figures being drawn from the typical example lent to us by Canon Tristram.

[R. B. S.]