

ZOSTEROPS DELICATULA, Sharpe.

Grey-sided White-eye.

Zosterops delicatula, Sharpe, Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. xvi. pp. 318, 440 (1882).

THIS pretty little species belongs to the division of the genus *Zosterops* in which the species have a parti-coloured under surface with the throat and the under tail-coverts yellow. It would appear to be very similar to *Zosterops frontalis* of Salvadori; but in the description of the latter species given by that author in his 'Ornitologia della Papuasie,' vol. ii. p. 368, there is no mention of the grey on the sides of the breast and fore neck, the breast and abdomen being described as white. It will remain therefore for some future comparison of *Z. delicatula* with *Z. frontalis* to determine whether the two birds are absolutely identical as species. There would be nothing surprising if this should turn out to be the case, as there are many instances of the same species occurring in the Aru Islands and in South-eastern New Guinea.

As far as our knowledge goes at present, *Z. delicatula* is only known from the Astrolabe range of mountains, whence several specimens were forwarded by Mr. Goldie.

The following is a description of a specimen kindly lent to me by Mr. Edward Gerrard, jun. :—

"*Adult*. General colour yellowish green, brighter and clearer yellow on the rump and upper tail-coverts; wing-coverts like the back; bastard-wing feathers black; primary-coverts and quills black, externally yellowish green, brighter on the primaries, which are narrowly edged with this colour; the secondaries more broadly margined with the same colour as the back, the innermost secondaries being entirely of the latter colour; tail-feathers blackish, edged with yellowish green near the base; crown of head like the back; forehead black, extending as far as above the middle of the eye; lores and feathers below the eye also black, as well as the fore part of the cheeks and a narrow line skirting the rami of the lower jaws to the base of the chin; round the eye a band of silky white feathers; ear-coverts and hinder cheeks dark green; throat bright yellow; remainder of under surface white with a delicate tinge of ashy grey, extending from the sides of the fore neck down the sides of the breast; thighs white washed with yellow; under tail-coverts bright yellow; under wing-coverts and axillaries white slightly washed with yellow; quills dusky below, ashy along the inner web. Total length 3·8 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 2·3, tail 1·5, tarsus 0·65."

The figures in the Plate represent an adult bird in two positions.

[R. B. S.]