

PTILOTIS FRENATA, *Ramsay.*

Bridled Honey-eater.

Ptilotis frenata, Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 603.

JUSTIFYING the remarks which I have made on *Ptilotis flavostriata*, the present species is another of the recent additions to the family Meliphagidæ in the Australian continent. I give the following extract from Mr. Ramsay's article, as it comprises all that is at present known respecting the species :—

“Of this new species, for which I beg to propose the name of *P. frenata*, on account of the markings at the base of the bill and round the face, some few individuals were obtained, frequenting the Eucalypti while in blossom, near the margin of a swamp in the Cardwell district.

“The birds were shot by my (then) collector, Mr. Broadbent, who is already well known as an enthusiastic and careful taxidermist. To Mr. Broadbent's researches my collection is also indebted for the first specimen of *Eopsaltria inornata*, nov. sp.

“*Description.*—Whole of the upper surface dull brown; head, lores, and nape of neck blackish brown, the feathers having indistinct lunulate markings and a gloss of olive in certain lights; a semi-bare space below the eye has a few minute buffy white feathers; behind the eye a semilunar patch of white feathers tipped with black, which, extending in a narrow line, almost encircles that organ. Eye-lashes black; ear-coverts black; above them, immediately behind the eye, is a small tuft of bright wax-yellow feathers joining a large triangular patch of light greyish brown feathers on the side of the neck, which has the upper portion of it, nearest the ear-coverts, tinged with olive; a narrow indistinct line of yellow on either side bounding the ear-coverts below, extending obliquely to the lower part of the chin, where, meeting in an angle, they form an indistinct yellow patch on the throat. Chin and remainder of the under surface dull brown, slightly darker in tint on the breast and sides of the neck, lighter on the centre of the abdomen and under tail-coverts; across the chest are indistinct wavy lines of a darker tint, on the flanks indistinct lanceolate markings of the same tint. Under surface of the shoulders, inner margins of tertiaries, secondaries, and the basal portions of inner margins of the primaries light buff. The outer webs of the spurious wing-feathers, the tertiaries, and secondaries, with some of the primaries, are on the upper surface tinged with olive. Bill black, with the basal portion (except the culmen) yellow. The gape, with a narrow fleshy appendage, yellow. Feet and tarsi dark brown.

“Total length 8·5 inches; bill from angle of mouth 1·05 inch, from feathers at the nostrils 0·65, from forehead 1·05, height at nostrils 0·2, breadth 0·2; wing from flexure 4·05; tail 3·6; tarsus 0·35.

“*Hab.* Rockingham Bay.

“Sexes alike in plumage. One specimen, said to be a male, is considerably smaller in all its measurements, which are as follows :—Total length 7·5 inches; wing 3·65; tail 3·25; bill from angle of the mouth 0·95, from feathers at nostrils 0·6 inch, from forehead 0·9, height at nostril 0·2, breadth 0·2.”

My figures represent the species of the size of life.