

## PTILOTIS MARMORATA, Sharpe.

### Mottled-breasted Honey-sucker.

*Ptilotis marmorata*, Sharpe, Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. vol. xvi. pp. 319, 438 (1882).

THIS large Honey-sucker was discovered by Mr. Goldie in the Astrolabe Mountains in South-eastern New Guinea. It is very closely allied to *P. cinerea* from North-western New Guinea, but is distinguished from it by the whitish edgings to the breast-feathers.

Nothing has been recorded of the habits of these Honey-suckers; but they doubtless do not differ from those of the ordinary species of *Ptilotis*. Mr. Goldie's specimens were obtained in the Morocco district, at the back of the Astrolabe range. He says that the native name is *Eaga*.

The following is a copy of the original description:—

“General colour above dusky brown, the feathers margined with olive, rather lighter on the head, which has a mottled appearance; on the forehead and over the eye a slight shade of ashy; wing-coverts like the back, but the outer median and greater coverts edged with paler olive, inclining to whity brown near the tips; quills and tail dusky, externally edged with yellowish olive, the tail-feathers margined with light rufous on the inner web; sides of face and ear-coverts dusky blackish, with a slight shade of silvery whitish on the ear-coverts, and a streak of dull white from behind the lores under the eye; cheeks dusky blackish, with a slight indication of ashy tips to the feathers; a narrow malar streak of dull yellowish white; throat yellowish white, mottled with dusky bases to the feathers; remainder of under surface of body ashy, the feathers tipped with a white bar and slightly washed with olive; the whole appearance of the under surface mottled, excepting on the lower flanks, which are uniform olive; thighs dusky; under tail-coverts light rufous with dusky bases, the outer ones externally yellowish white, mottled with dusky bases to the feathers; axillaries pale olive-yellowish; under wing-coverts light rufous-buff; quills dusky below, pale rufous along the inner web. Total length 7 inches, culmen 1·05, wing 3·8, tail 3·7, tarsus 1·05.”

The figure in the Plate is drawn from one of Mr. Goldie's specimens kindly lent to me by Mr. Edward Gerrard, jun. [R.B.S.]