

PACHYCEPHALA BRUNNEA, *Ramsay*.

Brown Thickhead.

Eopsaltria (?) *brunnea*, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, i. p. 391 (1877).

Pachycephala brunnea, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, iii. p. 382 (1879) ; iv. p. 99 (1879).—Salvad. Ibis, 1879, p. 324.

Pachycephala dubia, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, iv. p. 99, note (1879).—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. xv. p. 46 (1879).—Id. Orn. Papuasie &c. ii. p. 228 (1881).

IN an early collection of Mr. Goldie's from South-eastern New Guinea occurred a single specimen of this bird, which we identified as *Pachycephala brunnea* of Ramsay, and the Plate was lettered with this name. We regret that at the time we had overlooked the fact that there was already a *P. brunnea* of Wallace, and that therefore Mr. Ramsay's name could not stand. As Count Salvadori has pointed out, the species has also been described a second time by Mr. Ramsay under the name of *P. dubia*, by which title it should be known. The habitat seems to be South-eastern New Guinea, where it has been obtained on the Laloki river, and more recently in the Astrolabe Mountains by Mr. Goldie. It belongs to the plain-coloured section of Thickheads, and appears to be very closely allied to *P. simplex* of Gould.

The following is a copy of the diagnosis of the species given in Count Salvadori's work on the Birds of New Guinea.

Above clear brown tinged with olive, the head darker ; inner web of the quills and tail-feathers dusky grey (with the base of the quills whitish), white below ; lores dusky ; a faintly indicated dusky band above the eye ; throat greyish ashy, dusky towards the breast, the latter marked with a transverse band of dusky ; sides of the breast and of the abdomen dusky ; abdomen, under tail-coverts, and under wing-coverts silky white ; tail dusky above, tinged with olive like the wing, below dusky cinereous ; shafts of the tail-feathers black above, below white. Total length 5·5 inches, wing 3·3, tail 2·5, bill 0·55.

For the opportunity of figuring this species we are indebted to Mr. Edward Gerrard, jun., who kindly lent us one of Mr. Goldie's specimens from the Astrolabe Mountains. The Plate represents the bird, of the size of life, in two positions.

[R. B. S.]