

MEGALURUS ALBOLIMBATUS.

White-edged Reed-Warbler.

Poodytes albolimbatus, D'Albert. & Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. xiv. p. 87 (1879).—Salvad. op. cit. xvi. p. 189 (1880).—id. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, p. 422 (1881).
Megalurus albolimbatus, Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. vii. p. 129 (1883).

COUNT SALVADORI has placed the present bird in Cabanis's genus *Poodytes*, the type of which was the Australian *Megalurus gramineus*. We cannot, however, separate either the last-named bird or *M. albolimbatus* generically from the other species of *Megalurus*.

In the last-named genus there are two sections, one in which the upper tail-coverts are streaked with dark brown centres, and the other with the tail-coverts uniform. To this latter section belong *M. timoriensis* and the subject of the present article. *M. albolimbatus* is a much smaller bird than *M. timoriensis*, and is distinguished by the conspicuous white edgings to the inner secondaries and the dark brown centres to the tail-feathers.

The following descriptions are from the male and female originally described by Count Salvadori :—

“*Adult male* (Fly River ; D'Albertis : type of species). General colour above ferruginous, the head, lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts uniform, excepting a slight indication of dusky striations on the head ; mantle and upper back more fulvous, the feathers broadly centred with black ; wing-coverts black, with rufous-buff margins, a little paler on the outer median coverts and bastard-wing feathers ; quills black, edged with rufous-buff, the inner secondaries conspicuously bordered with white on both webs, all the other quills narrowly fringed with whitish at the tips ; tail-feathers dusky brown, with broad margins of dull rufous ; lores and a distinct eyebrow yellowish buff, the latter whiter ; feathers round the eye and ear-coverts yellowish buff, rufescent along the upper edge of the ear-coverts ; cheeks, throat, and under surface of body white, with a wash of yellowish buff on the fore neck and chest, deepening into tawny fulvous on the flanks and thighs, the under tail-coverts again a little paler ; under wing-coverts pale fulvous, the quills ashy brown below, pale rufescent along the edge of the inner web ; ‘bill brown, the lower mandible whitish ; feet fleshy ; iris chestnut’ (*D'Albertis*). Total length 5·4 inches, culmen 0·65, wing 2·25, tail 3·35, tarsus 0·85.

“*Adult female*. Similar in plumage to the male, but a little duller. Total length 5·3 inches, culmen 0·6, wing 2·15, tail 2·35, tarsus 0·85.”

The figures in the Plate represent the male and female birds, of the natural size. They are drawn from the types lent to us by the Marquis Doria, whose kindness in sending us over many valuable specimens for the purposes of the present work we have much gratification in publicly acknowledging.

[R. B. S.]