

PELTOPS BLAINVILLEI.

Broad-billed Flycatcher.

- Eurylaimus Blainvillei*, Garnot, Voy. Coquille, i. p. 595, pl. 19.—Finsch, Neu-Guinea, p. 160.
Peltops Blainvillii, Wagler.—Gray, Gen. B. i. p. 66.—Bp. Consp. i. p. 169.—Reich. Handb. Merop. p. 59, pl. 440.
figs. 3211, 3212.—Scl. Journ. Linn. Soc. vol. ii. (1858) p. 160.—Gray, Cat. Mamm. &c. N. Guin.
p. 19.—Id. P. Z. S. 1861, p. 433.—Wall. P. Z. S. 1862, p. 165.—Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 319.—Scl. Ibis,
1872, p. 177.—Id. P. Z. S. 1873, p. 696.
Erolla Blainvillei, Less. Traité, p. 260.
Platysomus Blainvillei, Swains. Classif. B. ii. p. 261.

THIS curious form of Flycatcher is only found in New Guinea and Mysol, Von Rosenberg having discovered it in the latter island. The original specimen was procured at Dorey in New Guinea; and Mr. Wallace also met with it in the north-western part of the same island, while Signor d'Albertis shot an example at Sorong. So rare has the species always been in collections, that a special examination of its structure has always been difficult; thus the bird has until lately been placed with the Broad-bills (*Eurylæmidæ*). Dr. Selater was the first to recognize the true affinities of the genus; and I cannot do better than quote his observations on the subject:—

“The genus *Peltops*, containing the single species *P. Blainvillii* of New Guinea, has been usually referred to the *Eurylæminæ*, or Broad-bills, and the group thus formed united in the same family with the Rollers (*Coraciadæ*), the Todies (*Todidæ*), and the Motmots (*Momotidæ*), or, at all events, placed in their immediate neighbourhood. Several errors are, in my opinion, embraced in this classification.

“In the first place, *Peltops* has nothing whatever to do with the *Eurylæmidæ*, being a truly Muscicapine form allied to *Monarcha* and *Machæirhynchus*, as the most casual examination of its structure at once shows. The mistake, no doubt, comes from the somewhat exaggerated form of the bill in *Peltops*, and from its general coloration resembling that of *Cymbirhynchus*. The rarity of *Peltops* has prevented the error from being discovered. On examining the wing of *Peltops* it will be seen that the first primary is short or ‘spurious’ (as in all the true *Oscines*) when it exists at all. In *Cymbirhynchus* there are ten fully formed primaries. There is also a conspicuous difference in the size of the feet in the two forms, these organs being strong and thick in *Cymbirhynchus*, while they are feeble and weak in *Peltops*, as in other Muscicapidæ. The relegation of *Peltops* to the Muscicapidæ also removes an anomaly in geographical distribution, it being obviously strange that no otherwise exclusively Indo-Malayan type, such as the *Eurylæmidæ*, should have a single outlier in New Guinea.”

General colour, both above and below, glossy black, including the wings and tail; ear-coverts and a patch on the interscapular region white; rump, vent, upper and under tail-coverts crimson. Total length 7 inches, culmen 0·95, wing 3·9, tail 3·4, tarsus 0·6.

My Plate is drawn from Signor d'Albertis's Sorong specimen, which he kindly lent me when in London. The figure is life-size.