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PIEZORHYNCHUS MEDIUS, Sharpe.
Coppinger's Flycatcher.

Piezorhynchus medius, Sharpe, Rep. Zool. Coll. Voy. H.M.S. 'Alert,' p. 14 (1884).

THE specimen from which the present species was characterized was obtained during the voyage of the surveying-ship 'Alert,' by Dr. Coppinger, the naturalist attached to the expedition. He procured a male at Port Molle, in Queensland, in the month of May 1888; and an examination of the individual in question induced us to reconsider the relations of the species of *Piezorhynchus*, to which it is allied. Writing in the year 1879, we had recognized four species of this particular group of Flycatchers, viz. *P. bernsteini* from the Island of Salvati, *P. nigumentum* from Amboyna and Goram, *P. trivirgatus* from Timor, and *P. gouldi* from North-eastern Australia. The latter species had previously been united with *P. trivirgatus*, but was separated in 1860 by the late Mr. G. R. Gray; and in writing our account of the 'Alert' collections we acknowledged our error in uniting with it *P. albiventris* of Gould.

Dr. E. P. Ramsay, in his latest list (1888) of the Birds of Australia, gives the habitat of *P. gouldi* as from Cape York to the Wide-Bay district of Eastern Australia, as far as the Richmond and Clarence Rivers, to New South Wales. *P. albiventris* is said to occur only in the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Cape York district, probably extending to Rockingham Bay. He has apparently overlooked our description of *P. medius*, which is closely allied to *P. albiventris*, and, like that species, has the upper tail-coverts black; but differs from it in having the sides of the body orange-rufous instead of white. *P. gouldi* has the sides of the body orange-rufous as in *P. medius*, but has the upper tail-coverts grey.

No notes on the habits of *P. medius* have yet been recorded; but they are doubtless exactly the same as those of the allied Australian Flycatchers, described by Mr. Gould.

Dr. Coppinger describes the soft parts as follows:—"Iris black; bill light grey; legs and feet dark."

The figures in the Plate are taken from the typical specimen in the British Museum, and represent two male birds of the size of life.

[R. B. S.]