

PIEZORHYNCHUS CASTUS.

White-crowned Flycatcher.

Monarcha castus, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, p. 53, pl. xii. fig. 1.

THIS beautiful species of Flycatcher belongs to the pied section of the genus *Monarcha* (or of the genus *Piezorhynchus*, as set forth in the 'Catalogue of Birds'), which includes *M. verticalis*, *M. leucotis*, *M. loricatus*, and other well-known Moluccan and Papuan species. It would appear to resemble *M. verticalis* very closely, and, like that species, has the ear-coverts, sides of neck, and summit of crown white, while the distribution of white on the wing-coverts is the same; but it would seem to be at once distinguished by the lines of white spots on the throat, and by having the inner secondaries edged with white instead of their being entirely pure white as in *M. verticalis*.

Only a single specimen was contained in Mr. Forbes's collection, from which we gather that the species is rather rare in the part of the Tenimber Islands visited by him.

The following is a description of the original type:—

Adult male. General aspect above variegated; the back and mantle bluish black, somewhat mixed with grey on the lower back as it approaches the rump, the lower part of which, with the upper tail-coverts, is white; least wing-coverts black; entire median series and inner greater coverts white; outer greater coverts black tipped with white; bastard wing, primary-coverts, and quills black, the secondaries narrowly fringed with white near the tip of the outer web; the innermost secondaries broadly edged with white externally; centre tail-feathers black, the next with a small triangular tip of white, which increases in extent towards the outer feathers until the external one is white for more than the terminal half; forehead, lores, and a narrow superciliary line extending backwards and forming a broad nuchal collar bluish black; the crown of the head pure white encircled by the black aforesaid; feathers below the eye, cheeks, and throat black, which extends in a broad band and joins the black nuchal collar above mentioned, thus encircling the white ear-coverts, which form a conspicuous patch; the lower throat decorated with white tips to the feathers, forming a triple line; sides of neck white, extending backwards so as to form a more or less distinct collar separating the nuchal band from the mantle; remainder of under surface from the throat downwards pure white, excepting the hinder aspect of the thighs, which is black; the white of the under surface slightly sullied with a grey shade; under wing-coverts and axillaries white, excepting the edge of the wing and the adjacent coverts, which are black; quills blackish below, edged with white along the inner web; "bill lavender, tip black; legs and feet lavender; iris reddish brown" (*H. O. Forbes*). Total length 5·75 inches, culmen 0·55, wing 2·7, tail 2·7, tarsus 0·75.

The Plate represents the typical specimen of the present species, of the natural size, in two positions.

[R. B. S.]