RHIPIDURA HAMADRYAS, Sclater.

Rufous-backed Fantail Flycatcher.

Rhipidura hamadryas, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, p. 54.

This species belongs to the section of the genus *Rhipidura* with the rump and upper tail-coverts rufous or einnamon-coloured. Its nearest allies would appear to be *R. semicollaris* from Eastern Timor and *R. dryas* from Northern Australia; but from both of these it is distinguished by the mantle being rufous like the rest of the back, and by the ashy tips to the tail-feathers.

The only specimens known were procured in Larat by Mr. H. O. Forbes during his first expedition to the Tenimber group; and I am indebted to Dr. Sclater for lending me the type specimen from which the accompanying description has been drawn up.

Adult female. General colour above dark ferruginous or cinnamon-rufous; lesser wing-coverts brown, with a slight wash of rufous; median and greater coverts, bastard-wing, primary-coverts and quills dusky brown, narrowly margined with ashy rufous, a little clearer rufous on the inner greater coverts and the secondaries; upper tail-coverts like the back; tail-feathers ashy brown, all but the centre ones with a broad tip of greyish white to the inner web, before which is a shade of black, the outer feathers also shaded with ashy whitish at the end of both webs; the bases of all the tail-feathers edged with ferruginous; forehead bright ferruginous, extending backwards to above the eye; remainder of the crown and hind neck dusky brown; lores and feathers below the eye blackish; ear-coverts sooty brown; cheeks and throat white, with a large spot of black on the lower part of the latter; remainder of under surface creamy buff; the sides of the upper breast ashy olive; sides of body and flanks a little deeper fulvous, as also the thighs; under tail-coverts fulvous white; under wing-coverts and axillaries ashy fulvous, the latter with whitish edgings; quills below dusky; inner edge of quills ashy; "legs and feet black; iris dark brown or black" (H. O. Forbes). Total length 5·6 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 2·4, tail 3, tarsus 0·8.

The Plate represents an adult female of this species, of the natural size, in two positions.

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