

RHIPIDURA RUBROFRONTATA, Ramsay.

Rufous-fronted Fantail Flycatcher.

Rhipidura rubrofrontata, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, iv. p. 82 (1879).—Layard, Ibis, 1880, p. 293.—
Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, vi. p. 178 (1881).—Salvad. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche,
ii. p. 68 (1881), iii. p. 533 (1882).
Rhipidura rufofronta, Ramsay, Nature, xx. p. 125 (1879).—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. xiv. p. 508 (1879).
Rhipidura rufofrontata, Salvad. Ibis, 1880, pp. 127, 129.

THE present species belongs to the group of Fantailed Flycatchers which have the lower part of the back cinnamon-rufous, contrasting in colour with the mantle and upper back. It is very closely allied to the Australian *Rhipidura rufifrons*, but is a smaller bird and differs, moreover, in the following characters, viz. :—The tips of the tail-feathers are pure white and not ashy white, and the under tail-coverts are deep rufous instead of pale cinnamon-buff; the black band of the fore neck is narrower, and the ear-coverts are blacker. The rufous base on the tail is more restricted in *R. rubrofrontata*, where it is hidden by the coverts, whereas in *R. rufifrons* it occupies nearly half the tail-feathers.

It would thus appear that *R. rubrofrontata* is the representative of *R. rufifrons* in the Solomon Islands, where it was discovered by Mr. Cockerell in the Island of Guadalcanar. Mr. Ramsay at one time considered it to be identical with Canon Tristram's *R. russata* from S. Christoval; but as he lent us the type specimen of the present bird, we were enabled to compare the two species, and can affirm that they are quite distinct.

The following description is taken from the typical specimen lent to us by Mr. E. P. Ramsay :—

Adult male. General colour above brown, the lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts rufous; wing-coverts like the back, the outer ones slightly tinged with rufous; quills dark brown, edged with paler brown, tinged with rufous on the inner secondaries; tail-feathers blackish brown, broadly tipped with white, and having the base of the outer web rufous, this being almost entirely concealed by the rufous upper tail-coverts; crown of head brown like the back; forehead and feathers above the eye orange-rufous, as well as the upper edge of the eyelid, the hinder frontal plumes tipped with tiny brown spots like the rest of the crown; lores, feathers below the eyes, and ear-coverts blackish brown, with a white mark on the lower eyelid; cheeks and throat white, followed by a black band across the lower throat; the feathers of the fore neck scaly, black with white edges; sides of the fore neck and chest dark ashy, the sides of the breast brown, with a rufous tinge; centre of abdomen white; thighs and under tail-coverts orange-rufous; axillaries and under wing-coverts brown washed with rufous, the lower ones white; quills dusky below, ashy whitish along the inner web. Total length 5·2 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 2·6, tail 2·9, tarsus 0·7.

In the Plate two figures are given, of the natural size, drawn from the type specimen which Mr. Ramsay lent to us.

[R. B. S.]