

## HYPOTHYMIS ROWLEYI.

### Rowley's Blue Flycatcher.

*Zeocephus rowleyi*, Meyer, in Dawson Rowley's Orn. Misc. iii. p. 163 (1878).

*Hypothymis rowleyi*, Sharpe, Brit. Mus. Cat. Birds, iv. p. 278 (1879).

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THE late Marquis of Tweeddale, in his well-known memoir on the Birds of Celebes, has certainly proved that, while it possesses a large number of peculiar forms, the island of Celebes is rather Indian in the affinities of its avifauna than Austro-Malayan; but inasmuch as there is also a strong Moluccan element perceptible in the birds of the island, I propose still to include them in the present work, as the completion of my 'Birds of Asia' prevents me from figuring them in that work, to which perhaps they would more properly belong.

If, as Dr. Meyer first suggested, the present species had turned out to be a true *Zeocephus*, it would have been a fact of the highest interest, as the latter genus is hitherto known only from the Philippine archipelago. It is scarcely less interesting, however, to find that it belongs to the strictly Indian genus *Hypothymis*, which thus gains a more extended range. I am glad that the specific name chosen by Dr. Meyer will perpetuate the memory of such an ardent naturalist and true patron of science as the late Mr. George Dawson Rowley, whose untimely death was a real loss to ornithology.

*Hypothymis rowleyi* is nearly allied to *H. puella* from Celebes and the Sula Islands, and, like that species, has no black collar or nape-spot, and has no black on the forehead or chin. It differs from *H. puella*, however, in having the under surface of a light silvery blue, while the colour of the back is a greyish cobalt: in the Celebean species the upper and under surface are alike in their shade of blue. The type specimen in the Dresden Museum still remains unique; it was procured by Dr. Meyer's collectors in Great Sangi Island, the avifauna of which, as far as we know, is Celebean in its character.

I take the accompanying description of the type from Mr. Sharpe's 'Catalogue of Birds':—

"*Adult*. General colour above greyish cobalt-blue, more grey on the rump; lesser and median wing-coverts like the back, the greater series and the quills light bluish grey, edged externally with the same greyish cobalt as the back of the quills, internally dusky blackish; tail greyish blue, dusky blackish on the inner webs; sides of face more dusky greyish blue than the head; cheeks and under surface of body light silvery bluish, darker on the throat, and more dusky blue on the sides of the breast; under wing-coverts and axillaries like the breast. Total length 6·5 inches, culmen 0·65, wing 3·65, tail 3·6, tarsus 0·95."

I am indebted to Dr. Meyer for the loan of the type specimen, from which the accompanying life-size figures have been drawn.