

GERYGONE DORSALIS, *Sclater*.

Rufous-backed Gerygone.

Gerygone dorsalis, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, p. 199.

THIS is one of the most distinct species of the genus *Gerygone*. The rufous colour of the back, so markedly in contrast with the grey head, is a character approached by none of the other species of the genus. Mr. Forbes, who discovered this new bird, sent a large series from Moloe Island in the Tenimber group:—

The following is a description of the typical specimen kindly lent to me by Dr. Sclater:—

Adult male. General colour rufous or bay; the lesser and median wing-coverts like the back; greater series, bastard wing, and primary-coverts, as well as the quills, dusky brown, edged with rufous like the back; tail-feathers light brown, margined with rufous, all but the centre feathers with a blackish shade before the tips, which are pale brown; near the end of the inner webs a white spot, which increases in extent towards the outermost feather; head dull ashy brown, contrasting with the back; a spot of dusky white on the lores; ear-coverts light ashy brown as well as the sides of the neck; feathers below the eye, cheeks, and under surface of body white; the sides of the breast and flanks light rufous or bay; thighs also light rufous; under tail-coverts buffy whitish; under wing-coverts and axillaries yellowish white; quills dusky below, yellowish white along the inner web; “bill, legs, and feet black; iris black” (*H. O. Forbes*). Total length 4 inches, culmen 0·55, wing 2·1, tail 1·5, tarsus 0·8.

Adult female. Resembling the male in colour, but with the head a trifle duller. Wing 2·15 inches, tarsus 0·85.

The Plate represents a male and female of this species, of the natural size.

[R. B. S.]