PETILODRYAS ALBIFACIES, Sharpe

PŒCILODRYAS ALBIFACIES, Sharpe.

Southern White-faced Flycatcher.

Pœcilodryas albifacies, Sharpe, Journ. Linn. Soc. (Zool.) vol. xvi. p. 318 (1882).

ALTHOUGH closely allied to *Pœcilodryas leucops* of North-western New Guinea, Mr. Goldie sent so many specimens from the Astrolabe Mountains, all of which presented the same characters, that there can be little doubt of the two species being distinct. The present bird is very similar to *P. leucops*, but has the whole of the region round the eye white. In *P. leucops* the feathers in front of, below, and round the eye are black, leaving only a large loreal spot of white, the facial appearance of *P. albifacies* being therefore quite different when the two birds are compared.

The native name is said by Mr. Goldie to be "Iddimattamatta;" he also states that the legs are yellow; and this is all we know concerning the species beyond the fact that it was procured by the above-named collector in the Choqueri district at the back of the Astrolabe Mountains.

The following description I copy from Mr. Sharpe's essay on Mr. Goldie's collection, published in the Linnean Society's Journal.

"*Adult*. General colour above olive-green, with a concealed spot of silky white on the sides of the rump; lesser and median wing-coverts like the back; primary-coverts and greater series dusky brown, edged with olive-green, the latter slightly tinged with rufous brown near the tips; quills dusky brown, externally olive, a little more yellow in colour than the back; tail-feathers light brown, edged with olive, and having a small tip of ashy white at the end of the inner web; forehead blackish, extending over the eye; top of head dark slaty grey with blackish shaft-streaks to the feathers, which are also very faintly tinged with olive; lores, feathers in front of the eye impinging on the forehead, feathers above and around the eye, as well as the space below the eye, pure white; ear-coverts slaty black; cheeks and chin white faintly washed with yellow; throat and under surface of body bright yellow, the sides of the breast and flanks olive-greenish, a tinge of which is also in the centre of the breast; axillaries bright yellow; under wing-coverts white washed with yellow, with a dusky patch near the edge of the wing, which is also yellow; quills ashy-brown below, whitish along the edge of the inner web. Total length 4·5 inches, culmen 0·55, wing 2·85, tail 1·9, tarsus 0·8."

The figures in the Plate represent a pair of birds of the size of life, drawn from the typical specimens in the British Museum.

[R. B. S.]

Gould, John and Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1882. "Pœcilodryas albifacies, Southern White-faced Flycatcher [Pl. 18]." *The birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands : including many new species recently discovered in Australia* 2(XIII), –. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322673>.

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