



LALAGE MCESTA, *Salter*.

LALAGE MÆSTA, *Sclater*.

Black-browed Caterpillar-catcher.

Lalage mæsta, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, p. 55.

THE present species is one of the novelties discovered by Mr. H. O. Forbes during his expedition to Timor laut. It is intermediate in coloration between *Lalage timoriensis* of Timor, and *L. pacifica* and *L. terat*, having the tail of the first-named bird, but the wing-coverts patterned as in the last-named species: from both of these, however, it may be distinguished by its pure white rump-band, and by the absence of a white eyebrow. From *L. timoriensis* it may be told by the lesser wing-coverts being greenish-black like the back; but, like that species, it has only two of the outer tail-feathers tipped with white. In *L. timoriensis*, also, there is a very distinct superciliary streak of white, whereas in the present bird the white is confined to a rather broad streak above the lores.

The following is a description of the typical specimens, which have been kindly lent to me by my friend Dr. Sclater. They will be ultimately deposited in the British Museum.

Adult male. General colour above glossy greenish black, the feathers of the lower back with ashy grey bases; rump white; the upper tail-coverts steel-black, tipped with white; wing-coverts like the back, the median and greater series with white spots at the tip, forming a double wing-bar, the white endings to the median series being much the broadest; bastard wing and primary-coverts uniform black; quills black, the secondaries edged with white on the outer web, this white, however, not extending to the base of the feathers, though it reaches to the tip of the outer web of the inner secondaries; tail-feathers black with a steely gloss on the margins, the two outer feathers with broad white ends, feathers in front of the eye black, surmounted by a white loreal streak from the base of the nostrils to above the fore part of the eye; upper and lower margin of eyelid white; ear-coverts white, black on the upper margin; cheeks, sides of the neck, and entire under surface of the body, as well as the thighs, under tail-coverts, under wing-coverts and axillaries, pure white; quills black below, but with about half of the inner web white, forming a large white patch on the under surface of the quills. Total length 7 inches, culmen 0.55, wing 3.85, tail 3.0, tarsus 0.9.

The bird described is apparently an adult male. A female sent by Mr. Forbes differs in being less glossy black above, and in having the rump-band more ashy white, the blackish subterminal markings, which are concealed in the male, being ashy and more conspicuous in the female. The throat and chest are slightly tinged with buff, and the lower series of under wing-coverts are white with blackish tips. These last two characters may be the remains of immaturity. Total length 7 inches, culmen 0.55, wing 3.7, tail 3.0, tarsus 0.95.

The figures in the Plate represent a pair of birds of the natural size.

[R. B. S.]



Gould, John and Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1883. "Lalage mœsta, Black-browed Caterpillar-catcher [Pl. 9]." *The birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands : including many new species recently discovered in Australia* 2(XV), –.
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