



PIEZORHYNCHUS AXILLARIS.

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### White-tufted Flycatcher.

*Monarcha axillaris*, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 291 (1875), xiv. p. 495 (1879).—Id. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, ii. p. 30 (1881).

*Piezorhynchus axillaris*, Sharpe, Cat. Birds in Brit. Mus. iv. p. 426 (1879).

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THIS plain-coloured but elegant Flycatcher is easily distinguished from all the members of the genus *Piezorhynchus* by its pure white axillaries, which contrast strongly with the general black plumage, so that it forms a distinct section of the genus to which it belongs.

It is apparently a very local species ; for, as far as is known at present, it is an inhabitant only of the Arfak Mountains in North-western New Guinea, where Mr. Bruijn's hunters procured an adult female in May and a young female in June, while the type specimen was obtained by Dr. Beccari in July, at Profi, in the Arfak Mountains, at a height of 3400 feet. No other travellers appear to have met with the species ; but Mr. Bruijn sent a few specimens to the Leyden Museum, one of which Professor Schlegel allowed us to have for the British Museum.

The following descriptions are taken from the typical adult males and the young female specimen in the Genoa Museum. They were examined by us during Count Salvadori's visit to England, when he kindly allowed us to take descriptions of them for the purposes of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds':—

*Adult male.* General colour above and below glossy blue-black ; wing-coverts blackish, edged with glossy blue-black, like the back ; tail black ; under wing-coverts and axillaries pure white, the latter forming a conspicuous patch on each side of the breast. Total length 5·7 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 3·2, tail 2·95, tarsus 0·75.

*Female* (not quite adult). Differs from the male in being dark slate-colour above and below, with a slight bluish gloss, the breast brown (apparently remains of young plumage) ; wing brownish black ; tail black. Total length 6 inches, wing 3·1, tail 2·9, tarsus 0·7.

The figures in the Plate are of the size of life, and are drawn from the male specimen in the British Museum.

[R. B. S.]



Gould, John and Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1888. "Piezorhynchus axillaris, White-tufted Flycatcher [Pl. 51]." *The birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands : including many new species recently discovered in Australia* 2(XXV), –. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322706>.

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