

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *PACHYCEPHALA*.

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Pachycephala howensis, sp. nov.

Adult Male.—General colour above olive-green; band on the hind neck rich yellow slightly washed with olive-green; lesser wing-coverts like the back, the median and greater coverts black margined with olive-yellow; quills black, the primaries externally edged with olive-green which passes into ashy-olive on the outermost series, the secondaries externally margined with olive-green; rump and upper tail-coverts olive-green; tail olive-green with an indistinct subterminal blackish-brown band which is almost lost on the outermost feathers; crown of the head, nape, a line of feathers below the eye and the ear-coverts black; throat white, followed by a black crescentic band on the fore neck which meets the black feathers on each side of the nape; remainder of the under surface and the under tail-coverts rich gamboge-yellow; bill black; legs and feet dark slaty-grey; iris dark brown. Total length 6·6 inches, wing 3·6, tail 3, bill 0·45, tarsus 0·9.

Adult Female?—Similar to the adult female of *Pachycephala gutturalis*, but having deeper yellow under tail-coverts.

Hab.—Lord Howe Island.

Type.—In the Australian Museum.

Remarks.—This species is closely allied to *Pachycephala gutturalis*, Latham, of the Australian continent, but from which the adult male may be distinguished by the olive-green tail and the smaller and less distinct subterminal blackish-brown band. In some specimens the band is formed by a large oval spot in the centre of the web only, and which is entirely lost on the outermost feathers. Eight specimens in the collection were procured by Messrs. Etheridge and party in 1887. Another adult male was obtained by Mr. E. R. Waite in April, 1898.

In the "Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,"¹ Dr. Gadow in describing *Pachycephala gutturalis*, remarks:—"The amount of grey on the tail varies much, and is sometimes replaced by olive-yellow. This is especially the case in examples from

¹ Gadow—Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., viii., 1888, p. 198.