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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.

Lord Howe Island and Tasmania." Evidently the specimens in the British Museum labelled from the latter island are not properly localized, for the only yellow-breasted species of *Pachycephala* inhabiting Tasmania is *P. glaucura*, which has the tail feathers uniformly grey and entirely devoid of any olive-yellow wash. Moreover Dr. Gadow's description of the adult male of *P. gutturalis*, "basal two-thirds of the tail grey, apical third blackish-brown, tipped with grey" is not applicable to that species but to the western form *P. occidentalis*. Latham's diagnosis of *P. gutturalis*, is founded on his description of the Guttural Thrush,² which he states is "not infrequently seen at Port Jackson in the winter months." Adult males of *P. gutturalis*, from New South Wales have the basal portion of the tail-feathers olive-green, or grey with a more or less olive-green wash especially on the outer webs. Specimens from South Australia received on loan from the Trustees of the South Australian Museum, also one in the collection obtained by Mr. J. A. Thorpe in the hills near Adelaide, are like the western form *P. occidentalis*, but have the basal portion of the tail-feathers of a slightly darker grey and the blackish-brown apical band darker and broader. Some specimens from western Victoria are similar to those from South Australia. A specimen in Mr. Edwin Ashby's collection procured at Lal Lal is like *P. occidentalis*, but having the faintest trace of an olive-green wash on the basal portion of the tail-feathers and the apical band much broader. Should it be necessary to distinguish this darker grey tailed form from South Australia and western Victoria I would propose for it the name of *Pachycephala meridionalis*. This forms a connecting link between the species inhabiting New South Wales and its extreme western representative *P. occidentalis*. The adult male in the Australian Museum collection, obtained by Mr. Thorpe in the hills near Adelaide in June, 1887, measures—Total length 6·5 inches, wing 3·75, tail 3·2, bill 0·45, tarsus 0·88.

Another collection of birds made by Mr. Waite on Lord Howe Island in December, 1902, contained two species that have not been previously recorded from that island, viz., *Tringa subarquata*, Gouldenst. and *Puffinus carneipes*, Gould. A specimen of the latter was also obtained by Mr. E. H. Saunders on the same island so far back as 1887.

² Latham—Gen. Syn. Bds. Suppl., ii., p. 182.