

A GENUS FOR *Eupetes caerulescens* TEMMINCK

BY JAMES L. PETERS

FOR many years an assemblage of Papuan Timeliidae has been united generically with *Eupetes* (type *Eupetes macrocercus* Temminck) of the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo. A preliminary survey of the Timeliidae in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy shows that this grouping is not correct, but that the Papuan birds are generically separable from *Eupetes* and that there is no name available. I therefore propose

***Ptilorrhoea* genus novum**

TYPE, *Eupetes caerulescens* Temminck.

DIAGNOSIS.—Related to *Eupetes* but bill relatively much shorter, more decurved terminally, little wider than high; position of nostril more basal, the distance from its anterior edge to tip of culmen equal to or less than the distance from its anterior edge to the gape; tail slightly graduated, rectrices broad and obtuse; tarsus less than twice as long as middle toe without claw; entire feathering of head normal (not velvety); under tail-coverts normal; no bare skin about eye; no naked patches on sides of neck.

REMARKS.—*Eupetes macrocercus* is strikingly different from any of the species listed farther on: the feathers of the entire head are very short and velvety; there is a conspicuous naked patch on either side of the neck; the bill is practically straight and relatively flat, its width at the gape nearly twice its height at the highest point on the culmen; the rectrices are relatively narrow and more pointed terminally; the feet are very small in relation to the tarsus, which is twice as long as the middle toe without claw; the under tail-coverts are very short and decomposed.

The most noticeable point of similarity in the two genera is the extraordinary thick mat of feathers covering the lower back and rump.

The forms of *Ptilorrhoea* are:—

- Ptilorrhoea caerulescens caerulescens* (Temminck)
- Ptilorrhoea caerulescens nigricrissus* (Salvadori)
- Ptilorrhoea caerulescens geislerorum* (A. B. Meyer)
- Ptilorrhoea caerulescens neumanni* (Mayr and de Schauensee)
- Ptilorrhoea castanotus castanotus* (Salvadori)
- Ptilorrhoea castanotus saturatus* (Rothschild and Hartert)
- Ptilorrhoea castanotus pulcher* (Sharpe)
- Ptilorrhoea castanotus bürgersi* (Mayr)
- Ptilorrhoea castanotus par* (Meise)
- Ptilorrhoea leucostictus leucostictus* (P. L. Selater)
- Ptilorrhoea leucostictus loriae* (Salvadori)
- Ptilorrhoea leucostictus amabilis* (Mayr)
- Ptilorrhoea leucostictus mayri* (Hartert)
- Ptilorrhoea leucostictus sibilans* (Mayr)
- Ptilorrhoea leucostictus centralis* (Mayr)

Cambridge, Massachusetts