

across the breast, or the more bluish-green, or the duller brown coloration of the upper parts is peculiar to a certain state of age or sex. All are apparently old specimens, and show every gradation in these characters.

The dull brownish tone passing into verdigris prevails in most of the specimens; only Nos. 548 (male) and 554 (female) are more of a greenish-blue, especially on the head and wings; these specimens have no dark breast-band, this being only faintly shown by rusty tips of the feathers. No. 551 (male) has scarcely any indication of a breast-band (resembling, therefore, the right-hand figure on Sharpe's plate). In Nos. 550 (male) and 552 (male) the breast-band is on a rusty ground-colour, speckled with blackish, in the remaining specimens more or less of a brownish-black.

The length of "wings," varies from 3 inches 3 lines to 3 inches 7 lines.

Mr Layard mentions *Halcyon veneratus* from Tonga (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1876, p. 501), but probably obtained the specimen here.

### 3. *Ptilopus purpuratus*, Gm.

*Ptilonopus purpuratus*, F. and H., Orn. Central-Polyn., p. 122; Finsch, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1877, p. 741.

*Ptilonopus tuitensis*, Elliot, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1878, p. 541.

[No. 557. Tahiti. Male.

No. 558. „ Female.

Feet violet; eyes orange; bill green at the base, tip yellow.]

I am pleased to have an opportunity of examining the *Ptilopus* of the Tahiti group, which is so rare in collections; and as the description given in the Ornithology of Central Polynesia (being copied from Peale) turns out to be incorrect in some points, I think it necessary to give a new one.

Male. Front and vertex delicate purplish-lilac, forming a pale and, not as usual in the members of this genus, a circumscribed head-cap; remainder of head, neck, and under surface ashy-grey with only a very faint greenish tinge, more visible on the middle of the breast and vent; throat-feathers bifurcate in the centre tinged with pale dull yellow-greenish; lower vent whitish, under tail-feathers citron-yellow; tarsal feathers ashy-grey; back, wings, and tail bright grass-green; on the mantle and shoulders with a bronzy shine under certain lights; remiges slaty black on the outer webs, tips dark green; secondaries margined externally very narrowly with yellow; under wing-coverts ashy-grey, the under-surface of wings darker; tail-feathers with a grey cross band above the ends, scarcely visible on the outer web; tail from below ashy-grey, with an ill-defined white cross band above the end.

Female like the male.