

CYCLOPSITTA COXENI, *Gould.*

Coxen's Parrakeet.

Cyclopsitta Coxeni, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc. 1867, p. 182.

My thanks are due to Mr. Waller, of Brisbane, for his kindness in sending me a fine specimen of this little Parrakeet, which, at his request, I have named after C. Coxen, Esq., a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, who has for many years taken a lively interest in ornithology. At present it is the only member of the genus *Cyclopsitta* that has been found in Australia; but other species of the same form are somewhat numerous in the islands to the northward of that country. Mr. Wallace enumerates the following in his paper "On the Parrots of the Malayan Region," published in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for 1864, viz.:—*Cyclopsitta diophthalma* of the Aru Islands; *C. Desmaresti* of New Guinea; *C. Blythii* of Mysol; and *C. loxia*, *C. lunulata*, and *C. leucophthalma* of the Philippines.

The history of the bird, so far as I can learn, is, that during the month of June, 1866, several specimens were procured about thirty miles from Brisbane, by a sawyer, who had seen a flock in the neighbourhood for some weeks, and had shot several for a pudding. Being somewhat interested in ornithology, and observing a difference between these and the ordinary green Parrakeet, he skinned three or four, two of which he brought to Mr. Waller, who subsequently visited the locality and succeeded in obtaining additional examples, and who, in a letter recently received from him, informs me that "the large scrubs of the mountainous district about forty or fifty miles north-west of Brisbane, which has been but little visited by Europeans, appears to be the natural home of the bird. There it sits on the large and lofty fig-trees, silent as death; and its presence can only be detected by attentively listening to the falling of the refuse of the wild figs, upon which it seems solely to subsist, and the hard tops of which are easily cut off with its strong bill. All the specimens I examined had their crops filled with the soft interior portion; but it appears to reject the fully ripe fruit. Its colouring so closely resembles that of the large leaves with which it is surrounded that it almost defies detection; and the only chance of obtaining examples is by watching the falling of the refuse of its food, and never moving your eyes until your have marked your bird; or it is ten to one you will be unsuccessful. When it has finished with one bunch of figs, it silently removes to another. It emits no call while on the trees, but when it leaves them utters a very low sound resembling *cheep, cheep*. The sexes are alike in plumage; but the female is rather larger than the male."

In size and in some other respects the *Cyclopsitta Coxeni* is nearly allied to the *C. diophthalma*, but differs in the absence of scarlet on the crown and in the smaller extent of that colour on the cheeks.

General plumage green; across the forehead a narrow band of red, which unites through the lores with a large patch of the same hue on the ear-coverts, beneath which is a patch of blue; primaries margined with blue; a streak of red on the tertiaries near the body; tail short and wholly green; bill very stout, the upper mandible of a bluish horn-colour, blending with a whitish line at the base; under mandible whitish, tips of both black; feet pale greenish white; nails light horn-colour, darker at the point; irides hazel.

Total length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, bill $\frac{5}{8}$, wing $3\frac{2}{3}$, tail 2, tarsi $\frac{1}{2}$.

The figures are of the size of life.