

## LICMETIS NASICUS.

### Long-billed Cockatoo.

*Psittacus nasicus*, Temm. in Linn. Trans., vol. xiii. p. 115.—Ib. Pl. Col., 331.

*Long-nosed Cockatoo*, Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. ii. p. 205.

*Licmetis tenuirostris*, Wagl. Mon. Psitt. in Abhand., vol. i. pp. 505 and 695.—G. R. Gray, List of Gen. of Birds, 2nd edit. p. 69.

*Psittacus tenuirostris*, Kuhl in Nov. Acta, tom. x. p. 88.

*Cacatua nasica*, Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 183.

*Plyctolophus tenuirostris*, Steph. Cont. of Shaw's Gen. Zool., vol. xiv. p. 108.

*The Red-vented Cockatoo*, Brown's Ill., p. 10. pl. 5.

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As I regard the Long-billed White Cockatoos from Western Australia and New South Wales as distinct, the habitat of the present species, so far as is yet known, is confined to the districts of Port Philip and South Australia, where it inhabits the interior rather than the neighbourhood of the coast. Like the common *Cacatua galerita*, it assembles in large flocks and spends much of its time on the ground, where it grubs up the roots of Orchids and other bulbous plants upon which it mainly subsists, and hence the necessity for its singularly-formed bill. It not unfrequently makes inroads to the newly-sown fields of corn, where it is the most destructive bird imaginable. It passes over the ground in a succession of hops, much more quickly than the *Cacatua galerita*; its powers of flight also exceed those of that bird, not perhaps in duration, but in the rapidity with which it passes through the air. I noticed this particularly when a flock passed me in the interior of South Australia. I have seen many individuals of this species in captivity, both in New South Wales and in this country; and although they appear to bear confinement equally as well as the other members of the family, they seemed more dull and morose, and of a very irritable temper.

The eggs, which are white, two in number, and about the size of those of the *Cacatua galerita*, are usually deposited on a layer of rotten wood at the bottom of holes in the larger gum-trees.

The sexes are alike in colour and size.

The general plumage white, washed with pale brimstone-yellow on the under surface of the wing, and with bright brimstone-yellow on the under surface of the tail; line across the forehead and lores scarlet; the feathers of the head, neck and breast are also scarlet at the base, showing through the white, particularly on the breast; irides light brown; bill white; naked skin round the eye greenish blue; legs and feet dull olive-grey.

The two figures in the accompanying Plate are rather less than the natural size.