PRIONITURUS SETARIUS.

Racket-tailed Parrot.

Psittacus setarius, Temm. Pl. col. 15.
Prioniturus platurus, Wagl. Mon. Psitt., in Abhand., p. 523.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., tom. i. p. 6.—Id. Rev. et Mag. de Zool., no. 3, 1854.
Psittacus spatuliger, mas, Bourj. Perr., t. 53.
Racket-tailed Parrot, Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. ii. p. 167, pl. xxiv.
Prioniturus platurus et *P. Wallacei*, G. R. Gray, List of Spec. of Birds in Coll. Brit. Mus., part iii. sec. ii. p. 17.
——— *setarius*, Slat. in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xxviii. p. 223.

The above list of synonyms are those which, in the opinion of Dr. Sclater, have reference to this species; while the following are assigned to it by Mr. G. R. Gray:—

Psittacus platurus, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., tom. xxv. p. 314.
——— (*Conurus*) *platurus*, Temm. et Kuhl, Mon. Psitt., pp. 7, 43.
——— *setarius*, Temm. Pl. col. 15.
Prioniturus platurus, Wagl. Mon. Psitt., p. 423.
Platycercus ? *setarius*, Steph. Gen. Zool., vol. xiv. p. 124.
Psittacus spatuliger, mas, Bourj. Perr., t. 53.
Racket-tailed Parrot, Lath. Gen. Hist. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 167, pl. xxiv.

Of the four known species of Parrot forming the genus *Prioniturus* the present is, I believe, the one with which we were earliest acquainted; but, unfortunately, so much confusion and uncertainty exists respecting its synonymy, that this part of its history is in the highest degree perplexing. This confusion is partly due to the fact that neither Latham's nor Temminck's figure agree with their descriptions and admeasurements, and has been further increased by a wrong locality having been given as the native habitat of the bird; if, however, the specimen in the Leyden Museum (which I have personally examined) be the one from which Temminck's figure and description were taken, there can be no doubt that those lately sent to this country by Mr. Wallace are perfectly identical, and hence the name of *Wallacei* proposed by me must sink into a synonym. Mr. G. R. Gray and Dr. Sclater are at variance with regard to the synonyms referable to the species of the genus *Prioniturus*: of course each of those gentlemen considers his own view of the matter to be the correct one; I have thought it best, therefore, to give both their lists.

Mr. Wallace's return to this country during the present month of April, 1862, from his exploration of the Islands of the Indian Archipelago, enables me, through his courtesy, to give the exact locality of this bird, together with a brief note of his respecting it.

"*Habitat.* The Southern Celebes, near Macassar; and the Northern Celebes, near Menado, in the lowlands near the sea: it frequents the plantations in small flocks."

There appears to be a well-marked difference in the outward appearance of the sexes, the female having the spatulate tips of the two centre tail-feathers much less developed, and being entirely destitute of the crescentic marks which decorate the crown and upper part of the back of the opposite sex—differences which, being clearly shown in the accompanying figures, need not be more minutely described.

Male: forehead, back of the head and neck, and the under surface light green, on the crown a crescent of red, behind which is another of bluish grey; at the base of the neck behind, a broad crescent of rich deep orange; lesser wing-coverts or shoulder pale blue, the remainder of the wing-coverts grey washed on the edges with green; upper surface, wings, central tail-feathers and bases of the lateral ones green, increasing in depth of hue posteriorly, and with a wash of grey on the upper part of the back; prolonged shafts of the two central feathers black, the spatulate tips bluish black, with the exception of the basal portion, which is deep green; lateral tail-feathers tipped with deep blue; primaries green for two-thirds of their breadth, on the upper surface the shafts and remaining third black, on the under surface the green portion is black and the black is bluish or glaucous green; under tail-coverts green at the base, passing into orange-yellow at the tip; bill dark horn-colour; feet mealy grey.

Total length, $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, 1; wings, $6\frac{7}{8}$; tail, 7; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$.

The female is entirely green above, with a wash of yellow on the edges of the wing-feathers; under surface pale-yellowish green, gradually passing into yellow on the under tail-coverts; spatulate tips of the middle tail-feathers as in the male, but smaller, and only half an inch distant from the body of the feathers.

The Plate represents a male of the natural size, and a female and another male much reduced.