

TROGON AMBIGUUS, Gould.

Doubtful Trogon.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Mas.—*Facie nigrâ ; pectore et corpore suprâ aureo-viridibus ; humeris tectricibusque alarum ornatè cinereis et fusco irroratis ; rectricibus tribus externis utrinque albis, crebrè fusciscenti-nigro punctis ; rectricibus quatuor intermediis fusciscenti-rufis cum apicibus nigris.*

Male.—Face and throat black ; chest, sides and back of the neck, and upper surface rich golden bronze, gradually passing into golden green on the lower part of the back ; primaries black, margined externally with white ; wing-coverts and secondaries grey, finely marked with transverse zigzag lines of black ; two centre tail-feathers rich fiery-red bronze, broadly tipped with black ; the two next on each side blackish brown, broadly tipped with black ; three outer feathers on each side brownish black at the base and white at the tip, the intermediate portion being white, minutely dotted or freckled with black, the freckles assuming the form of a distinct but irregular narrow bar where the freckling terminates ; breast and under surface rich scarlet, separated from the green of the throat by a crescent of white ; tarsi slate-grey, gartered below with scarlet and white ; bill bright yellow. Total length, 11 inches ; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$; wing, 5 ; tail, $6\frac{1}{2}$.

Female.—A mark of white behind the eye and on the ear-coverts ; head, upper surface and chest light olivaceous brown ; primaries brown, margined with white ; wing-coverts and outer webs of the secondaries light olivaceous brown, minutely rayed with black ; two centre tail-feathers cinnamon-brown, tipped with black ; the two next on each side brown, margined with cinnamon-brown ; three lateral feathers brown at the base, crossed on their margins and near the extremity with irregular freckled bands of brown on a white ground ; upper part of the breast pale brown ; lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts scarlet, separated from the brown by a band of greyish white ; bill yellow.

Trogon ambiguus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part iii. p. 30.—Ib. Mon. of Trogons, pl. 4.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 69, *Trogon*, sp. 11.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 149, *Trogon*, sp. 11.

I have ventured to separate this bird from the *Trogon elegans*, to which it closely assimilates. The points of difference consist in the obscure and pale, but finely-dotted markings of the outer tail-feathers, in opposition to the strong and well-defined black bars on the same part in *Trog. elegans*, while at the same time the centre of the wing is much more finely and minutely barred in the former than in the latter. Had I seen only a single individual of each of these birds, I might have taken a different view of the subject ; but my comparisons having been made upon several individuals, I feel but little hesitation in assigning to the present bird, at least provisionally, the rank of a distinct species.

The localities in which these two birds appear to be indigenous are distinctly separated from each other, —all the examples I have seen of *Trogon ambiguus* having been exclusively received from the northern and western States of Mexico, while the *Trogon elegans* is strictly limited to the southern and Guatemala.

A figure and description of this bird appeared in the first edition of this monograph, and after a lapse of twenty years I am unable to add any further information respecting it, save that I have in the interval received other specimens from San Blas. Besides the differences pointed out above, I observe that the tail is fully an inch shorter than that of *T. elegans*, and that the *T. ambiguus* is altogether smaller than that species. Another point of difference also occurs in the bright fiery bronze colouring of the two middle tail-feathers, which cannot be excelled in richness, and which is but slightly indicated in *T. elegans*, the corresponding feathers in that bird having only a wash of this fine tint.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.