## ALLOTRIUS MELANOTIS.

## Black-eared Allotrius.

Pteruthius melanotis, Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng. vol. xvi. p. 448.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. iii. App. p. 13. App. to p. 270.

Numerous as are the collections of birds which have been from time to time forwarded to this country from our Indian possessions, scarcely any of them have contained examples of this species; a circumstance which at once indicates that the bird is an inhabitant of distant and remote countries which have not yet been explored by the collector, and but rarely visited by travellers; accordingly we find that it is in Nepaul, Bootan, and other countries lying still farther to the eastward, that the *Allotrius melanotis* finds a congenial residence.

M. Temminck has characterized and figured in his "Planches Coloriées," under the name of Allotrius anobarbus, a bird very nearly allied to, and which by some writers has been considered identical with, the present species; but upon a comparison of examples of the latter with M. Temminck's Plate, I am induced to believe that the two birds are specifically distinct. The Allotrius anobarbus is stated to be from Java, and not from India, which forms an additional reason for considering them not identical, but representatives of each other in the countries they respectively inhabit.

The Honourable East India Company's Collection contains examples of, I believe, both sexes of this rare bird: if this conjecture be correct, the male has the wing-coverts tipped with white, while those of the female are tipped with reddish buff: these differences will be at once perceived on reference to the accompanying Plate, which represents the birds of the natural size.

The male has the crown of the head, all the upper surface and the basal three-fourths of the two central tail-feathers yellowish olive; lores, orbits, and a crescentic mark behind the ears black; back of the neck grey, separated from the black of the orbits by a streak of light grey; wing-coverts black, largely tipped with white, forming two bands across that portion of the wing; remainder of the wing slaty black, narrowly edged with grey, and the secondaries margined with white at the tip; throat rich orange-brown, gradually blending into the orange-yellow of the under surface; two central tail-feathers tipped with black; outer feather on each side white, the remainder of the tail-feathers black, with a large patch of white on the tip of the inner web of the feather next the outer one, and a smaller spot of white on the same part in the succeeding one; bill dark slate-colour; legs and feet flesh-colour.

In the female the colouring is similar, but is of a much paler hue, and the tips of the wing-coverts are buff instead of white.

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The figures are of the size of life.