

## HARPACTES RUTILUS.

### Malacca Trogon.

*Harpactes rutilus*, Gould, Mon. of Trogons, 2nd edit. pl.

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ENOUGH has been said in my description of *Harpactes Duvauceli* respecting my reasons for applying the term *rutilus* as a distinctive appellation for this bird, which is a native of the Malayan Peninsula, and which, so far as I am able to judge from an examination of a vast number of specimens, never has the fine scarlet mark on the rump and upper tail-coverts; independently of this difference, the present species is a larger and more robust bird than the *H. Duvauceli*; it moreover has a thicker bill, and the whole of the upper plumage much more dense. Specimens frequently occur in collections sent from Singapore, but which I believe are generally made in Malacca; at this moment I have several of both sexes before me which I am sure are fully adult, and yet there is not the slightest trace of the scarlet on the rump of either of them; neither have I seen any indications of it in the specimens contained in the Collection at the British Museum, nor in those in the Museum of the East India Company, and in those in the possession of T. C. Eyton, Esq., and others. In a letter transmitted to me by A. R. Wallace, Esq., that gentleman says, "I think there are four species of Trogons in Malacca; but as I only obtained males of two of them, I cannot be certain; two of them are of the average size, and the other two smaller. Of the smallest I have only a female in a bad state of plumage; I believe it is *H. rutilus*. The bill and the skin of the gape are deep cobalt-blue; the culmen broadly, and the margins narrowly bordered with black or horn-colour. The bare skin above the eye is pale sky-blue; the irides dark brown, and the feet dusky blue." The bird referred to by Mr. Wallace is the bird here figured, and not the *H. Duvauceli*.

The usual difference is observable in the colouring of the sexes, which are correctly represented on the accompanying Plate, of the natural size.

The male has the head and neck black; all the upper surface rich reddish cinnamon; wings black, the coverts and secondaries crossed by numerous fine, irregular, wavy lines of white; primaries margined externally with white; breast, all the under surface, and under tail-coverts fine rosy scarlet; two centre tail-feathers cinnamon-brown, slightly tipped with black; the two next black; the three outer ones on each side blackish brown, largely tipped with white; bill and gape deep cobalt-blue; the culmen broadly, and the margins narrowly bordered with black or horn-colour; bare skin above the eye pale sky-blue; irides dark brown; feet dusky blue.

The female has the head and throat reddish brown; upper surface as in the male, but darker; breast cinnamon-brown; abdomen and under tail-coverts very light cinnamon-brown, washed with a rosy hue; primaries and secondaries black, crossed by narrow ochreous bands; two centre tail-feathers cinnamon-brown, the remainder as in the male.