

PHLOGÆNAS JOBIENSIS, Meyer.

White-chested Pigeon.

Phlogænas jobiensis, Meyer, Mitth. Zool. Mus. Dresden, i. p. 10 (1875).—Sharpe, Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. xiii. p. 318.

Chalcophaps margaritæ, D'Alb. et Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Gen. vii. p. 836 (1875).

——— *margaritæ*, Salvadori, op. cit. ix. pp. 44, 207 (1876).

Phlogænas margaritæ, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. viii. p. 405 (1876).—Sclater, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 111.

Chalcophaps jobiensis, D'Alb. et Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. ix. p. 207 (1876).

THIS truly beautiful species of Ground-Dove was described almost simultaneously by Dr. Meyer in Dresden and by Signor D'Albertis and Count Salvadori in Turin. That the adult bird described by the two latter gentlemen from South-eastern New Guinea should not have been recognized as the same as Dr. Meyer's species from Jobi is not surprising, as the latter was described from an immature bird. Thanks to Dr. Meyer's kindness, however, I have been enabled to give a figure of the typical bird; and there can be no doubt, on comparing it with the adult specimen also figured by me, that *P. margaritæ* and *P. jobiensis* belong to one and the same species, in which case I believe that the latter title possesses a slight priority of publication over the former. Even if this conclusion had been formed in this country alone, the specimens alluded to are almost sufficient to have settled the question; but a similar conclusion has been arrived at quite independently by Count Salvadori, who has examined an adult specimen from the island of Jobi, which was identical with others from South-eastern New Guinea. The range of this species therefore extends from the island of Jobi to New Guinea, and to Duke-of-York Island or New Ireland to the eastward. Unfortunately Mr. Brown has not given the exact locality of the specimens which he sent to Dr. Slater. It would appear to be found over the greater part of New Guinea, as Beccari procured an adult bird at Wandammen, in the Bay of Geelvink; and several specimens were contained in D'Albertis's collection from Yule Island and the opposite coast of New Guinea. Here he met with it at Naiabui; and it was also obtained at Port Moresby by Mr. Stone.

The present species is closely allied to *P. erythroptera*, of the Society Islands, which, however, is a smaller bird, and is distinguished by its white forehead. I take the accompanying description from the original paper of Signor D'Albertis and Count Salvadori.

Head, neck, rump, and upper tail-coverts blackish grey; lores, a streak over the eye, fore neck, and upper part of breast pure white; a streak under the eye, drawn from the base of the lower mandible as far as the neck, blackish grey; dorsal plumes, scapulars, and upper wing-coverts dusky black, margined with shining violet; sides of the breast black, the edges of the feathers violet; lower breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts dusky black, the middle of the lower breast and of the abdomen somewhat ashy; quills dusky; tail blackish grey, slightly paler at the tip; bill black; feet dull dusky red.

In the Plate an old and young bird are represented, of about the natural size, the latter being Dr. Meyer's type specimen, the adult being drawn from a fine specimen collected by Mr. Octavius Stone and kindly lent to me by that gentleman.