

LORICULUS AURANTIIFRONS, *Schlegel.*

Orange-crowned Loriculus.

Loriculus aurantiifrons, Schlegel, Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor de Dierkunde, iv. p. 19.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. ix. p. 912.—Meyer, in Rowley's Orn. Misc. ii. p. 245.

THE present species, of which a fine male was kindly sent to me by Dr. Meyer, is one of the smallest Parrots known, and forms one of a group of tiny *Loriculi* found in New Guinea and the adjacent islands. It was first discovered by the Dutch traveller M. Hoedt in the island of Mysol; and since that time it has been collected in North-western New Guinea by M. Bruijn. The latter gentleman procured specimens at Andai; and Count Salvadori, when recording this fact, believed that this was the first instance of the occurrence of the species in New Guinea. That it was the first instance published, there can be no question, as Dr. Meyer, although he was the first to procure actual specimens, had not stated it in print. He informs me in a letter that he has no notes on the present bird, of which he only procured two male examples.

The following is a translation of Professor Schlegel's original description:—

“The first three quills are of equal length and much longer than the fourth; tail rounded; bill not strong, black. General colour of the plumage lively green, verging slightly upon yellow, and lighter on the under than on the upper surface; upper aspect of the inner web of the quills black, with the exception of their extremities; lower aspect of the primaries black, but with very broad edgings of bluish verdigris occupying the inner web; this colour extends over nearly the whole of both quills in the secondaries; greater wing-coverts of the same bluish verdigris, lesser and median coverts coloured like the abdomen. Tail-feathers black in the centre, for the remainder green on their upper surface, verdigris below; rump and upper tail-coverts fiery red, slightly shaded with orange on the sides of the rump; fore part of the throat with a spot of red colour a little darker than that of the rump.

“The sexes present the following differences in colour: the male has a large patch of lively orange, occupying nearly the entire forehead; not a trace of this is seen in our female specimen, which is distinguished on the contrary by the prevailing green colour, passing into verdigris on the forehead and sides of the head.”

For the opportunity of figuring the male of this pretty little Parrot I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. A. B. Meyer.

The portrait of the female bird is drawn from a specimen collected by M. Bruijn at Andai; and I have to acknowledge the kindness of Dr. Sclater for permitting me to see this bird, which had been sent to him for examination by Count Salvadori, to whom I also beg leave to return my due acknowledgments.

Total length $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing $2\frac{1}{4}$, bill $\frac{1}{8}$, tail $1\frac{1}{2}$, tarsus $\frac{1}{2}$.

The figures in the Plate are of the size of life.