

GEOFFROYIUS TIMORLAOENSIS, *Meyer*.

Tenimber Parrot.

Geoffroyius keyensis, Salvad. ; Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, pp. 51, 200.—Forbes, Naturalist's Wanderings, p. 356 (1885).

Geoffroyius timorlaoensis, Meyer, Vögel, Nester und Eier aus dem Ostind. Archipel, p. 15 (1884).

THE first specimens sent from Timor Laut by Mr. H. O. Forbes were referred by Dr. Sclater to *Geoffroyius keyensis*, the species from the Ké Islands. Dr. A. B. Meyer, the well-known Director of the Dresden Museum, received no less than eleven specimens from Timor Laut, collected by Mr. Riedel's hunters, and he came to the conclusion that the species from the two groups of islands above named were not identical, and he named the bird from the Tenimber Islands *Geoffroyius timorlaoensis*.

The differences referred to by Dr. Meyer consist of the smaller size of *G. timorlaoensis* and the green instead of blue colour on the external aspect of the first primary. We have compared four specimens of the Timor-Laut birds with two specimens of *G. keyensis* from the Ké Islands, and we must confess that the characters for their separation are of the very slightest. We cannot see the smallest difference between the two species as regards the blue on the first primary, and the only character is the slightly smaller size of *G. timorlaoensis*. Mr. Forbes has also written a critique on the species in his entertaining narrative of his expedition to Timor Laut, and his conclusions are the same as our own.

In deference to Dr. Meyer's kindness in lending us the specimens, we have given figures of the species and add a description.

Adult male. General colour above grass-green, a little lighter towards the under tail-coverts; wing-coverts like the back, the innermost reddish, forming a shoulder-patch; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills dusky blackish, externally dark grass-green, the secondaries entirely of the latter colour; the first primary edged with richer and deeper green than the others; upper tail-coverts lighter green than the back; tail-feathers glistening yellow, edged with emerald-green; crown of head plum-coloured or purplish lilac, with a frontal band of scarlet, which colour extends over the lores and entire sides of the face, being tinged with lilac on the ear-coverts and sides of the head; throat also scarlet, the lower throat, fore neck, and remainder of under surface bright grass-green, paler towards the vent and under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts and axillaries cobalt-blue, some of the long axillary plumes green with blue tips; the edge of the wing green; quills below blackish. Total length 9·5 inches, culmen 1·05, wing 7·0, tail 3·5, tarsus 0·6.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but lacks all the brilliant colouring of the head and face, the head being of an olive-yellowish tint all round, including the throat, the crown greener and more like the back. Total length 9·5 inches, culmen 1·05, wing 6·85, tail 3·55, tarsus 0·6.

The Plate represents an old male and female of about the natural size, the figures being drawn from the two birds lent to us by Dr. Meyer.

[R. B. S.]