

GEOFFROYIUS HETEROCLITUS, *Hombr. & Jacq.*

Yellow-headed Parrot.

Psittacus geoffroyi heteroclitus, Hombr. et Jacq. Ann. Sci. Nat. xvi. p. 319 (1841).

Psittacus heteroclitus, Gray, Gen. B. ii. p. 421, no. 8 (1846).—Id. List Psittacidae, Brit. Mus. p. 73 (1859).—Id. List Birds Tropical Islands of the Pacific Ocean, p. 34 (1859).—Id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 160, no. 8277 (1870).

Pione heteroclitus, Hombr. et Jacq. Voy. Pôle Sud, pl. 25 bis, figs. 1, 2 (1842-53).

Pionus heteroclitus, Jacq. et Pucher. Voy. Pôle Sud, iii. p. 103 (1853).

Pionus cyaniceps, Jacq. et Pucher. Voy. Pôle Sud, texte, iii. p. 105 (1853).

Geoffroyius heteroclitus, Bonap. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1854, p. 155.—Souancé, op. cit. 1856, p. 218.—Sclater, P. Z. S. 1869, p. 122.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. x. p. 30 (1877).

Geoffroyius cyaniceps, Bonap. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1854, p. 155.—Sclater, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 107.

Pionias heteroclitus, Finsch, Papageien, ii. p. 390 (1868).

THIS beautiful Parrot is so rare in collections, that when Dr. Finsch wrote his celebrated work on the Psittacidae he had not seen an example; and it is only within the last year that I have had the pleasure of examining it myself. The original specimens were three in number, and were brought from the islands of St. George and Ysabel in the Solomon group by the French Expedition to the South Pole. More recently it has been rediscovered by Mr. George Brown in New Britain, as recorded by Dr. Sclater *l. c.*; and I am indebted to this gentleman for the loan of the specimen from which my Plate has been drawn.

When discovered by MM. Hombron and Jacquinot, a second form with a blue head was also procured, which these naturalists considered to be the female of the yellow-headed bird. Dr. Pucheran, in his account of the birds procured by the expedition, thought otherwise—and believing that the blue-headed specimen was a distinct species, named it *Pionus cyaniceps*; but Dr. Finsch agreed with the first opinion, and made it the female of *G. heteroclitus*. I am unable to say for certain whether this is right or wrong, as I have not yet seen more than one example of the blue-headed form. Recently Dr. Sclater has considered it probable that there are two species inhabiting the New-Ireland group; as, however, Mr. Brown has lately sent over the yellow-headed and blue-headed specimens figured by me, I incline to the opinion that they are the same species.

The colouring of this species is so very distinct, that the figures in the Plate will serve to distinguish it from all its allies. Dr. Finsch places it in the genus *Pionias*, along with a great many American and African species, which, according to my views, belong to distinct genera (*Prioniturus*, *Pæocephalus*, &c.). But taking his comprehensive view of *Pionias*, the present species belongs to the first section, with green under tail-coverts, sky-blue under wing-coverts, and blackish wing-lining. Its yellow head and cheeks, coupled with the blue band round the neck, are sufficient to distinguish it at a glance.

As before mentioned, the specimens here figured were from Mr. George Brown's third collection. The principal figure is of the size of life; and a slightly reduced figure is placed in the back-ground, and is supposed to be that of a young female.