

NASITERNA MISORIENSIS.

Misori Pygmy Parrot.

- Nasiterna pygmæa geelvinkiana* (pt.), Schl. N. T. D. iv. p. 7 (1871).—Rosenb. Reist. naar Geelvinkb. p. 137 (1875, pt.).
- *geelvinkiana* (pt.), Schl. Mus. P.-B. Psittaci, Revue, p. 71 (1874).—Meyer, Sitz. Isis zu Dresden, 1875, p. 76 (pt.).—Beccari, Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 714 (1875, pt.).—Finsch, Orn. Misc. p. 160 (1876).
- *misoriensis*, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 909 (1875), x. p. 26 (1877).
- *misoensis*, Sclater, Ibis, 1876, p. 358.

For a comparison of the present species with *N. maforensis*, I may refer my readers to the Plates of the two, where it will be seen that these Pygmy Parrots, although closely allied, appear to possess good specific characters. I owe to the courtesy of Dr. Meyer two mounted specimens of the Misor bird, the male having a widely spread mark of orange-yellow down the abdomen, a feature apparently wanting in the opposite sex; and Count Salvadori has also favoured me with a sight of the type specimen obtained by Beccari. All the males had brown heads, with a distinct lunate mark of yellow on the nape, while the females had the brown suffused with bluish.

Count Salvadori writes to me:—"This species is peculiar to the island of Misor, where Von Rosenberg was the first to collect specimens. He obtained a male and two females, which Prof. Schlegel referred to his *Nasiterna pygmæa geelvinkiana* along with the Mafor specimens. When Beccari sent home examples from both localities, I determined those from Misor as belonging to a different species from those of Mafor.

"The adult male is easy to distinguish by reason of his brown head with a very conspicuous yellow spot on the nape.

"Dr. Finsch has described (*l. c.*) two specimens of this bird collected by Dr. Meyer in Misor, which Dr. Finsch seems to think is the same as Mafor. I should say that his description of the supposed male has been taken from a female, and that the description of the supposed female was that of a young bird; one thing is quite certain, that neither the one nor the other of the specimens described by him were adult."

I have received the following note from Dr. Meyer:—"I noticed in my diary, under the heading of *N. pygmæa geelvinkiana* from Mysore (Kordo):—"Colour of the eyes orange-yellow; feet and claws bluish grey, the underparts of the feet somewhat yellowish. Bill bluish grey, the base of the lower mandible white. Cere black, the nostrils surrounded by an elevated thick fleshy ring. Head covered with many little white parasites (lice). In the stomach the remains of fruit."

I subjoin a description of the species, sent to me along with the synonymy by Count Salvadori.

"*Male*. Green; head brown, with a conspicuous yellow spot on the nape; round the neck there is a slight indication of a blue collar; middle of the breast and abdomen bright ochraceous yellow; under tail-coverts and a spot at the tip of the inner web of the three outer tail-feathers pure yellow; the two middle tail-feathers blue, with a small black spot, scarcely visible, near the tip; the outer tail-feathers edged externally with green, the spiny tip of the rectrices rather long; bill strong, of a greyish colour; iris orange-red. (*Beccari*.)

"*Female*. Green; pileum brown, with the feathers of the vertex edged with dull blue; cheeks brownish green; underparts yellowish green; under tail-coverts yellow; tail as in the male.

"Total length 3·6 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 2·1, tail 1·2."

I have figured on the Plate two males and a female, of the size of life; and for the opportunity of figuring these I have to thank Dr. Meyer, who, with his usual liberality, sent me over his fine specimens for the purpose.