

PSITTEUTELES WILHELMINÆ.

Wilhelmina Lorikeet.

Trichoglossus wilhelminae, Meyer, J. f. O. 1874, pp. 56, 57, 111.—Id. Sitz. k. Akad. Wissensch. lxix. p. 74 (1874).

If it were possible to use such a term in speaking of a bird, I should describe this exquisite little Lorikeet as being an example of the *multum in parvo* principle as regards colouring. Its diminutive size, together with the great variety of its tints, combine to render it one of the most striking of the birds obtained by Dr. Meyer during his recent travels to New Guinea and the adjacent islands. Although for the present I associate *P. arfaki*, *P. placens*, and this species under one genus, it must not be overlooked that they differ in one important character, namely in the possession of fourteen tail-feathers by *P. arfaki*, whereas *P. placens* and *P. wilhelminae* have only twelve, like other Parrots. Its beautifully coloured graduated tail is, in fact, the only character which it possesses in common with *P. arfaki*, the fashion of the coloration being very similar.

In naming this species *P. wilhelminae* Dr. Meyer has paid a graceful compliment to his wife, who has been a constant companion of his travels, not only in Europe, but also to the far distant Molucca Islands; and I must confess that it gives me great pleasure in figuring the species in an early number of my work, and thereby assisting to perpetuate the name of a lady so heroic.

That other species of this little genus remain to be discovered one can hardly doubt, seeing the vast accessions to our knowledge of ornithology which each successive collection from the northern part of New Guinea brings to us.

On the accompanying Plate two males and a female are depicted, as nearly of the natural size as possible; but it will perhaps be desirable to add a detailed description, since the female differs in some points from the male as regards the colour and disposition of the markings; but the most prominent is the entire absence of red on the under surface of the wing. Her other tints, though similar to the male, are not so fine.

The following is a description of a male sent:—"Bill yellow; face, throat, and under surface generally, lively pale green, with a large patch of lengthened narrow stripes of yellow on the breast, each stripe being margined with a dark colour; crown of the head and nape reddish brown, with narrow blue feathers interspersed down the latter; mantle and upper surface green; lower part of the back fiery red, succeeded by a patch of purple, blending into green on the upper tail-coverts; two central tail-feathers black at their bases, passing into greenish at their tips; the bases of all the external feathers fiery red, succeeded by black, and green tipplings; on the flank a small patch of yellow joining the red of the back; the feet appear to have been grey.

"Total length of male $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, wing $2\frac{5}{8}$, tail $2\frac{3}{8}$, tarsi $\frac{3}{8}$.

"*Hab.* New Guinea, passim."