

## PSITTEUTELES ARFAKI.

### Arfak Lorikeet.

*Trichoglossus (Charmosyna) arfaki*, Meyer, Verh. z.-b. Gesellsch. Wien, 1874, p. 37.

— *arfaki*, Meyer, Sitz. k. Akad. Wien, lxi. p. 74 (1874).—Rowley, Orn. Misc. part 3 (1876).

THE minute size and singular coloration of the outer tail-feathers, which make this tiny Parrot resemble at first sight one of the Indian Minivets (*Pericrocotus*), caused me no little astonishment when I first uncovered the specimen which Dr. Meyer was so kind as to send over to me from Dresden for the purpose of figuring; but I further found that, in addition to these characteristics, it differed from all its allies in having *fourteen* tail-feathers instead of twelve. This peculiarity would almost be sufficient to place it in a separate genus; but this I cannot bring myself to do, in the face of its evident affinity to *P. placens* and *P. wilhelminæ*: and when we consider that certain Snipes are still retained in the genus *Gallinago* which present similar variations in the number of the tail-feathers to that exhibited by these little Lorikeets, it is not unreasonable to keep the latter in one and the same genus.

Only three specimens were procured by Dr. Meyer during his trip to the Arfak Mountains, one old male in full livery and two young ones; one of the latter passed into the collection of Count Turati, of Milan, and the other into that of Mr. Dawson Rowley, of Brighton, by whom it was figured in his interesting work the 'Ornithological Miscellany.' I am much indebted to this gentleman for the loan of his specimen, which is depicted in the adjoining Plate along with the adult male retained by Dr. Meyer for the Dresden collection and sent over by him to England. The plate in the 'Ornithological Miscellany' represents the bird to be a female; but I am assured by Dr. Meyer that some error must have occurred by the displacement of the original label; for he himself dissected the three specimens shot, and proved them to be males, one being adult, as before noted, and the other two immature: these had the colouring incomplete except as regards their tails; but in size, as is often the case with young birds, they somewhat exceeded the adult. It is one of these young birds that has been figured by Mr. Dawson Rowley.

That this is a honey-eating Parrot I have no doubt, its general characteristics uniting it with this group of the Parrots; but its colours are strikingly anomalous. Fancy a little bird, scarcely bigger than a Bearded Reedling (*Calamophilus biarmicus*) with a tail like that of a Minivet (*Pericrocotus*), and exhibiting a silvery tear-mark running down a cheek of smutty blue, and we have some of the peculiarities of this curious form. The Plate, however, gives a better idea of the bird than can be gained from any remarks of mine. The following is a more detailed description of the old male:—

The half of the crown nearest the bill, the under part of the shoulders, flanks, centre of the abdomen, and apical half of the outer tail-feathers bright red, while the base of each of the feathers last mentioned is jet-black; the rest of the plumage both above and below fine grass-green; the margins of the primaries washed with blue; sides of face dull blue, with a silvery streak running down the centre; the under surface of all the primaries and secondaries jet-black, crossed by a V-shaped band of bright yellow; bill and feet black.

Total length 6 inches, wing  $2\frac{3}{4}$ , tail  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , bill  $\frac{1}{2}$ , tarsi  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Hab.* Arfak Mountains, N.W. Guinea.

The figures represent the old and young birds, of the size of life.