

CHARMOSYNA MARGARITÆ, *Tristr.*

Duchess of Connaught's Parrakeet.

Charmosyna margarethæ, Tristram, Ibis, 1879, p. 442, pl. xii.

Charmosynopsis margaritæ, Salvad. Orn. Papuasias, i. p. 319 (1880).—Id. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. xviii. p. 419 (1882).—Id. Orn. Papuasias, etc. iii. App. p. 520 (1882).

Trichoglossus (Charmosyna) margarithæ, Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. vi. p. 720 (1881).

THIS beautiful little Parrakeet belongs to the subgenus *Charmosynopsis* of Salvadori, along with *C. pulchella*, to which it is allied. It differs from the latter bird, however, in many particulars, in the yellow collar round the hind neck, and in the broad yellow band on the chest, which takes the place of the yellow streaks in *C. pulchella*. In the latter species also there is no purplish-black band across the breast as there is in *C. margaritæ*.

The present bird, named by Canon Tristram in honour of H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, was discovered in the Solomon Islands by Lieut. Richards, R.N., and Mr. Ramsay has likewise received specimens from the same Archipelago. He has very kindly lent us a pair of birds from the island of Ugi, the one with the red on the sides of the rump being marked "male" and the yellow-sided bird "female."

The following is a description of the specimens lent to us by Mr. Ramsay :—

Adult male. General colour above bright grass-green, the rump and upper tail-coverts washed with golden; sides of the lower back crimson; wing-coverts green, like the back; primary-coverts and quills black, externally green like the back; tail-feathers crimson slightly tipped with yellow, which increases into a large terminal mark on all the other feathers, which have black shafts, and an inner broad margin of black and a narrower external one of grass-green; forehead and sinciput crimson, separated by a broad bar of deep purplish black on the vertex from the occiput and hinder neck, which are also crimson, and are succeeded by a narrow band of purplish black, followed by a somewhat broader one of orange-yellow, which divide the green back from the crimson neck; lores, sides of face, cheeks, ear-coverts, sides of neck, and entire throat crimson, followed by a narrow band of purplish black, which is succeeded by a broad band of orange-yellow, both these bands being continuous with the similarly coloured bands round the hind neck; remainder of under surface of body crimson, with a band of purplish black across the breast; thighs and basal under tail-coverts crimson, the longer under tail-coverts grass-green; axillaries and under wing-coverts crimson; edge of wing grass-green. Total length 7·5 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 4·25, tail 3·25, tarsus 0·4.

The female exactly resembles the male, but has less tinge of golden on the rump, and is further distinguished by the sides of the lower back being orange-yellow, with crimson tips to a few of the feathers. Total length 7·6 inches, culmen 0·65, wing 4·1, tail 3·5, tarsus 0·4.

The figures in the Plate are taken from the pair of birds mentioned above as lent to us by Mr. Ramsay: they represent the male and female of about the size of life.

[R. B. S.]