

CYCLOPSITTA MELANOGENYS.

Black-cheeked Perroquet.

Psittacula melanogenia, Rosenberg, Tijdschr. voor Nederl. Indië, xxix. p. 142 (1866).—Schlegel, Nederl. Tijdschr. voor de Dierk. iii. p. 330 (1866).—Rosenberg, Reis naar de Zuidoostereilanden, p. 49 (1867).—Gray, Hand-l. of Birds, ii. p. 168 (1870).—Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, *Psittaci*, p. 35 (1874).
Psittacula melanogenys, Finsch, Papag. ii. p. 627 (1868).
Cyclopsittacus melanogenys, Salvadori, Annali Mus. Civic. Genov. ix. p. 14 (1876-7).—Id. *op. cit.* x. p. 29 (1877).

I HAVE figured in my different works several species of these little Perroquets, which appear to form a small group inhabiting only New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands, and extending into North-eastern Australia.

During the course of the present work several new species have been discovered; and the most of these belong to the orange-breasted section of the genus *Cyclopsitta*.

As Count Salvadori remarks, the distribution of these birds is truly remarkable, especially as regards the present bird and its two nearest allies: thus *C. melanogenys* is found in the Aru Islands, and is replaced in South-eastern New Guinea, where so many of the birds are identical with Aru species, by *C. suavisima*; while on the Fly river, which is an intermediate locality, occurs *C. fuscifrons*. Von Rosenberg procured examples of the present bird in the three islands of Wokam, Wonoumbai, and Mikor (all in the Aru group), where they are known to the natives by the name of Joa. Professor Schlegel gives a full description of the bird, and makes the following remarks, which I extract from his paper:—

“The Aru group produces a little *Psittacula* which has escaped the researches of Mr. Wallace, but of which M. von Rosenberg has furnished us with four individuals, viz. an adult male and female, and two specimens marked as males but wearing the livery of the females. This species is allied by its general form and its system of coloration to our *Psittacula gulari III.*, which inhabits Salawati and the neighbouring coast of New Guinea; and it appears to replace it in the Aru archipelago. It is, however, much smaller in size, all its colours are less vivid, the black bar on the ear-coverts is proper to both sexes, the yellow of the loreal region is replaced by white, and the blue of the forehead and the superciliary streak are also blackish; the greater under wing-coverts, instead of being uniform blackish, are yellowish and only tipped with blackish; the quills have all of them, excepting the first two, a very large yellowish band on their inner web, whereas in *P. gulari III.*, this band is either in no way pronounced, or slightly indicated, passing insensibly to blackish, and confined to the secondary quills. The chest is always tinged or washed with yellow or orange-red.”

The following is a translation of the description given by the learned Professor:—

Adult male. General colour grass-green, passing to yellowish green on the lower parts and to blackish on the inner webs of the quills. Forehead, region of the eye, and the whole of the posterior portion of the ear-coverts and the moustachial plumes of a slightly pronounced black; behind the region of the ear a very large patch extending onto the chin, of a white colour, washed with orange-yellow; the chest of a dark orange-rufous, not very bright; lower edge of wing, as also the outer edge of the primaries, blue; lesser and median under wing-coverts yellowish green, passing into blue towards the edge of the wing; greater under wing-coverts yellowish, but blackish at the tip; inner web of the quills, with the exception of the first two, having a very large yellow band.

The female and the male in imperfect plumage are distinguished from the adult male in the colour of the large patch behind the region of the ear, which is not white, but of a lively orange-yellow, the part of which occupying the chin passes into a greyish blue; lastly the chest is simply washed with orange-yellow. Von Rosenberg gives the colours of the soft parts as follows:—“Bill, feet, and iris dark greyish brown.”

The figures in the accompanying Plate are of the size of life, and are a male and a young bird from the Aru Islands.