

CALORNIS GULARIS, Gray.

Purple-throated Glossy Starling.

- Calornis gularis*, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1861, pp. 431, 436.—Id. Hand-list of Birds, ii. p. 27, no. 6385 (1870).—Walden, Trans. Zool. Soc. viii. p. 80 (1872).—Sharpe, Ibis, 1876, p. 47.—Rosenb. Malay. Arch. p. 395 (1879).—Forbes, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1884, p. 433.—Id. Nat. Wand. East. Arch. p. 365 (1885).
Calornis metallica, Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1883, p. 51 (nec Temm.).
Calornis circumscripta, Meyer, Sitz. u. Abhandl. Gesellsch. Isis, 1884, Abth. i. p. 49.—Salvad. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1884, p. 579.

In the year 1861 the late Mr. G. R. Gray described a Glossy Starling, under the name of *Calornis gularis*, which had been sent by Mr. A. R. Wallace from the island of Mysol. The type specimen is still in the British Museum and has been variously referred by ornithologists to *Calornis metallica* or to a separate and distinct species. In 1872 the late Marquis of Tweeddale spoke of the species as "apparently nothing but *C. metallica*;" but in a small review of the genus published by us in 1876 we ventured to differ from Lord Tweeddale, and affirmed that *C. gularis* was a distinct species, recognizable by its small bill and purple throat. Count Salvadori, on the other hand, who examined the type specimen, which still remained unique in the British Museum, did not hesitate to unite it to *C. metallica*; and when Mr. Forbes's specimens arrived from Timor Laut, Dr. Sclater identified them as belonging to the last-named species. Dr. Meyer, however, having received some more specimens from Timor Laut, forwarded by Mr. Riedel, considered the *Calornis* from this group of islands to be distinct from *C. metallica*, and described it as *C. circumscripta*; and in this view he has been upheld by Count Salvadori, who does not agree with Mr. Forbes in calling the bird from Timor Laut *Calornis gularis*. Mr. Forbes has published his reasons for considering *C. circumscripta* of Meyer to be synonymous with *C. gularis* of Gray, and he submitted his series to our examination and for exact comparison with the type of *C. gularis*. So convinced were we of the correctness of his identification, that we agreed to figure the latter species from a pair of Mr. Forbes's Timor-Laut skins, and since then Dr. Meyer has lent us some of the typical examples of his *C. circumscripta*. These, however, only confirm the correctness of Mr. Forbes's identification; and we are perfectly certain that if Dr. Meyer and Count Salvadori could re-examine the type of *C. gularis*, they would both be convinced of the absolute identity of *C. circumscripta*. The type of *C. gularis* is labelled by Mr. Wallace, and the locality is in his own handwriting, so that it is unlikely that a mistake in the habitat of the species has been made; but we agree with Count Salvadori that it is curious that the same species should inhabit Mysol and Timor Laut, "so far apart one from the other, while true *C. metallica* lives in so many islands lying between them."

The figures in the Plate represent the male and female of about the natural size; they have been drawn from a pair of birds procured in Timor Laut by Mr. Forbes.

[R. B. S.]