

PARUS ARFAKI, Meyer.

New-Guinea Tit.

Parus? arfaki, Meyer, Sitzungsber. der Isis, April 1875.—Mitth. a. d. k. zool. Mus. Dresden, i. p. 8, 1875.

THE great stronghold of the *Paridae*, or family of Tits, is the temperate and northern region of the old world; from the boreal countries of Lapland and Siberia to the hot forests of India, its dependencies, and China, the numerous members are found; as we proceed southward from these countries the form gradually disappears, so that in Australia and New Zealand it is totally absent. It was, then, with considerable surprise that I received from Dr. Meyer an undoubted member of this family, collected, I believe, by himself in the northern part of New Guinea; and this unique specimen this gentleman has intrusted to my care for the purpose of figuring in the present work, accompanied by the following notes and description.

This new Tit reminds us in its general appearance of the crested Indian genus *Machlolophus*; but it differs from that form in the length of the first primary, in the rather lengthened pointed ear-feathers, and in the singular gold-brown coloration of the underparts. "Zoogeographically," says Dr. Meyer in a letter to me, "a species of *Parus* from New Guinea is very remarkable. *Parus cinereus*, Vieill., has been seen as far east as Flores (Wallace, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1863, p. 485); but from Australia, New Guinea, or the Moluccas no species of this genus has been known until now."

Dr. Meyer states that he believes that neither Signor d'Albertis nor other New-Guinea explorers met with this bird; neither does Salvadori mention it in his lists.

Forehead, upper and hinder parts of head, chin, throat, and chest black; rump olive green; cheeks and ear-patch bright yellow, the feathers of latter rather elongated and pointed; the whole of the underparts yellow, golden brown in the middle of the belly, merging into yellow on the flanks and under tail-coverts; on the three upper tertiary feathers an oval spot of yellow; bill black; feet light horn-colour, tarsi somewhat darker.

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

Hab. Arfak Mountains, New Guinea.

The figures in the accompanying Plate are of the natural size.