

TROGON MELANOPTERUS, Swains.

Black-winged Trogon.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Mas. *Trog. capite suprà guttureque violaceo purpureis; auribus gulâque nigris; dorso uropygioque metallicè viridibus; caudæ tectricibus superioribus purpureis; reatricibus duabus intermediis viridibus purpureo tinctis, proximis duabus utrinque pogoniis, externis viridescenti-purpureis internis nigris, his omnibus nigro apiculatis, cæteris ad basin nigris ad apicem albis; alis nigris; ventre tectricibusque caudæ inferioribus aurantiaco-flavis.*

Irides saturatè brunneæ; rostrum cærulescenti-cinereum, apicem versus subflavescens; pedes cærulescenti-cinerei.

Fœm. *Suprà et ad pectus saturatè plumbeo-cinereus; alis brunnescenti-nigris, secundariis scapularibusque albo transversim strigatis; reatricibus brunnescenti-nigris, extimarum utrinque trium apicibus fasciâque pogonii interni albis.*

Rostrum quàm in mare saturatiùs.

Male. Bill bluish grey inclining to yellow at the tip; crown of the head and chest rich violet purple, throat and ear-coverts black; back and rump rich metallic green; upper tail-coverts purple; two middle tail-feathers green with a tinge of purple, two next on each side black on the inner web, and greenish purple on the outer, the whole six tipped with black; the three outer feathers on each side black at their base and white at their tips; wings black; abdomen and under tail-coverts rich orange yellow; feet bluish grey; irides dark brown.

Female. Bill as in the male but darker; head, chest, and all the upper surface deep leaden grey; wings brownish black; secondaries and scapularies transversely striated with fine lines of white; abdomen and under tail-coverts orange; six middle tail-feathers brownish black, the three outer on each side the same, but tipped with white and having bars of the same colour on their inner webs.

Total length, $10\frac{1}{2}$ to $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $1\frac{1}{8}$; wing, $5\frac{1}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $6\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $\frac{3}{8}$.

Trogon violaceus, viridis, curucui, Auct.

Couroucou de la Guiane. Buff. Pl. Enl. 765? young male.

————— *Cayenne.* Ibid. 766? female.

ALTHOUGH I myself entertain no doubt that the *Trog. violaceus*, *Trog. viridis*, and *Trog. curucui* of different authors all refer to this bird, still the descriptions are so imperfect as to defy all attempts to assign it with any degree of certainty to either of them; and in consequence of this intolerable confusion I am induced to adopt Mr. Swainson's name of *melanopterus* for this common and well-known species.

The *Trogon melanopterus* appears to have a more extensive range than most other species, as it is dispersed, although but sparingly, through a great portion of the Brazils, and several of the West India Islands adjacent to the continent: I would remark, however, that the bird found in the islands is somewhat more diminutive in all its proportions than those from the continent, yet in every other particular they so strikingly accord as, in my opinion, to render their separation unnecessary.

This species gives a preference to dense and almost impenetrable forests, and like the other members of its race is solitary and unsocial in its habits. The male may be distinguished from all others by its large size and by the rich violet colour of its head and chest. The female is more sombre in her colouring, those parts being of a dusky grey which in the male are resplendent green and violet. The young male during the first year resembles the female; and I have frequently observed that while undergoing the changes from youth to maturity, it exhibits a blending of the colouring of the mature male with that of the female, assuming the rich colouring of the head and back, without having exchanged either the whole or any portion of the barred tail-feathers; hence, no doubt, has arisen the confusion among the older authors with respect to this bird, in consequence of their not being acquainted with its immature changes.

In the stomachs of some specimens of this bird which M. Natterer examined, were found the remains of fruit, and an insect nearly allied to *Mantis*.