TROGON SURUCURA, *Vieill.*

Surucua Trogon.

Specific Character.

Mas. *Trog. vertice, cervice, pectoreque iridescenti-viridibus; facie guttureque nigris; dorso saturatè iridescenti-aureo-viridi in cœruleum ad uropygium vergente; rectricibus intermediis duabus cœrulescenti-viridibus, duabus proximis utrinque pogoniis externis cœrulescenti-viridibus internis nigris, harum omnium apicibus nigris, reliquis dimidio basali nigro apicali albo; remigibus nigrescenti-brunneis, albo ad pogonia externa fimbriatis; secundariis alâque suprà nigro alboque lineolatim punctatimque variis; abdominis medio tectricibusque caudæ inferioribus coccineis.*

Irides saturatè rufescenti-brunneæ; *rostrum* flavescenti-albidum; *pedes* saturatè brunnei.

Fœm. *Fuliginoso-cinerea; ventre imo caudæque tectricibus inferioribus coccineis; alis brunnescenti-nigris, remigibus albo fimbriatis, secundariis plumisque cæteris cinereo-albido fasciatis; rectricibus nigrescenti-brunneis; intermediis sex nigro apiculatis, reliquis albo fimbriatis nisi basin versus pogoniorum internorum.*

Rostrum cinereo-albidum.

Male. Crown of the head, back of the neck, and chest changeable green and violet; throat and face black; back and upper tail-coverts deep changeable golden green, inclining to blue on the rump; the two middle tail-feathers bluish green, the two next on each side with their outer webs only bluish green, the inner black, the whole six tipped with black; the three outer feathers on each side have their basal half black, the remainder white; primaries blackish brown bordered with white on their exterior edges; secondaries and upper part of the wing freckled with markings of black and white; centre of the abdomen and under tail-coverts crimson scarlet; bill yellowish white; irides deep reddish brown; feet dark brown.

Female. Whole of the head, neck, chest, back and rump sooty grey; lower part of the belly and under tail-coverts scarlet; wings brownish black, primaries edged with white; the secondaries and upper part of the wings transversely rayed with greyish white; six centre tail-feathers blackish brown tipped with black, three outer feathers on each side blackish brown margined on their exterior edges and partly so on their inner ones with white; bill greyish white.

Total length, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; *bill*, 1; *wing*, 5; *tail*, $5\frac{1}{2}$; *tarsi*, $\frac{5}{8}$.

Le Surucua. Azara, Voy. dans l'Amérique Méridionale, tom. iv. No. CCLXX.
——— Ibid., Sonnini's Translation, tom. iv. p. 41.
Trogon Surucura. Vieill., L'Encyclopédie Méthodique, tom. 3. p. 1362.

I HAVE not the slightest hesitation in asserting this species of Trogon to be the *Surucua* of Azara, from whose elaborate work I am consequently induced to insert the following nearly literal translation.

After informing us that *Surucua* is the native name of this bird in Paraguay, he proceeds to state that "it is not common, and it does not quit the largest woods. It generally remains on the upper portions of the trees without descending to the lower branches or to the earth: it sits a long time motionless, watching for insects which may pass within its reach, and which it seizes with adroitness; it is not gregarious, but dwells either in solitude or in pairs; its flight, which is rapid and performed in vertical undulations, is not prolonged. These birds are so tame as to admit of a near approach; I have seen them killed with a stick They do not migrate, and they are never heard except in the love season; their note then consists but of the frequent repetition of the syllables *pio* in a strong, sonorous and melancholy voice: the male and female answer each other. They form their nest on the trees by digging into the lower part of the nest of a species of ant known by the name of *cupiy*, until they have made a cavity sufficiently large, in which the female deposits in the month of September two white eggs according to some, and four according to others. I have seen the male clinging to a tree, after the manner of the Woodpeckers, occupied in digging a nest with his beak, while the female remained tranquil on a neighbouring tree."

Azara states that he has only seen this bird from Paraguay; I have, however, received it from the southern parts of the Brazils, and a single specimen formed part of the fine collection made by Capt. P. P. King during his survey of the Straits of Magellan. Although I have not been able to ascertain from what precise locality Capt. King's specimen was procured, I am inclined to believe that it has a more extensive range than is generally suspected.