TROGON VARIEGATUS, *Spix.*

Purple-breasted Trogon.

Specific Character.

Mas. *Trog. viridis; capite suprà pectoreque purpureis, illo frontem versus nigrescens; alis in medio minutè lineolis flexuosis nigris albisque notatis, remigibus saturatè brunneis pogoniis externis albis; rectricibus duabus intermediis chalybeo-viridibus nigro apiculatis, proxmis utrinque duabus nigris ad marginem exteriorem viridibus, reliquis ad basin nigris apicem versus nigro alboque fasciatis apicis maculâ quadratâ albâ; corpore subtùs, præter pectus, saturatè coccineo; femoribus nigris.*

Irides saturatè brunneæ; *rostrum* flavescenti-albidum; *pedes* cœrulescenti-cinerei.

Fœm. *Fuliginoso-cinereus, caudâ brunneo tinctâ; alis in medio albo fasciatis; pectore albo; rectricibus extimis utrinque tribus pogoniis externis nigro fasciatis.*

Male. Bill yellowish white; head and chest metallic purple merging into black on the forehead; ears, throat, back, and upper tail-coverts green; centre of the wings covered with very minute zigzag markings of black and white; primaries dark brown with their outer edges white; two middle tail-feathers steel green tipped with black, two next on each side black with their outer edges green; the three outer feathers on each side black at the base, and barred with white and black, ending in a square mark of white; whole of the under surface deep scarlet; thighs black; tarsi bluish grey; irides very dark brown.

Female. Head, chest, and upper surface dark sooty grey; centre of the wing distinctly barred with white; upper part of the abdomen white, merging into scarlet on the belly and under tail-coverts; tail deep sooty grey with a tinge of brown, the three outer feathers barred with black on their outer edges.

Total length, 9 inches; *bill*, 1; *wing*, 4; *tail*, 5; *tarsi*, $\frac{5}{8}$.

Trogon variegatus. Spix, Av. Sp. Nov. tom. 1. pl. xxxviii[a]. p. 49.

I am indebted to Mr. Swainson for the loan of three highly interesting examples of this species, from which specimens the figures on the accompanying Plate were drawn. I perfectly agree with this gentleman in considering the lower one to be a very old male; but with regard to the centre one I am rather uncertain, some appearances inducing me to believe it to be a young male in the state intermediate between youth and maturity, when it has acquired the perfect wings and tail but wants the brilliancy of the upper surface. I would here suggest that probably these birds may at some seasons, through the action of light and heat, lose the metallic lustre of their plumage, and consequently bear the sombre appearance of the centre bird in our Plate. Although not fully prepared to assert that this is the case, I am borne out in my opinion by discovering, on minutely examining the bird, that the wing-feathers are old, worn, and partly decomposed. The upper figure is without doubt that of an adult female.

On examining other specimens of this bird in the collection of M. Natterer, I find that it is subject to a very unusual and considerable variation of its markings; for although they all bear the general characteristics of the species, still scarcely two examples are to be found possessing strictly similar markings of the three lateral tail-feathers: in some specimens the black bars predominate, and in others the white; I have reason to believe, however, that in very old males the black bars become partially obliterated, as exhibited in the lower figure of the accompanying Plate.

The *Trogon variegatus* is a native of Brazil, where, M. Natterer informs me, it inhabits the woods bordering the rivers Negro and Paraguay. It was first discovered by Dr. Spix, in whose work is a good representation of the male: it will also form a conspicuous plate in Mr. Swainson's exquisite work on the birds of Brazil.