

## TROGON MALABARICUS.

### Malabar Trogon.

#### SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Mas. *Trog. capite, gutture, pectoreque fuliginoso-nigris, hoc torque lato albo; ventre coccineo; dorso tectricibusque caudæ superioribus sordidè arenaceo-brunneis; scapularibus tectricibusque alæ majoribus nigris albo flexuosim strigatis; remigibus nigris, pogoniis externis albo fimbriatis; rectricibus duabus intermediis subcastaneis nigro apiculatis, proximis duabus utrinque nigris prope rhachidem brunneis, reliquis ad basin nigris ad apicem albis.*

Fœm. *Capite, dorso, gutture, pectoreque sordidè brunneis; ventre luteo; pectore haud torquato; scapularibus nigro brunneoque strigatis.*

*Rostrum nigrum; mandibularum basis regioque ophthalmica nuda cæruleæ.*

The male has the whole of the head and throat and chest sooty black; a crescent of white separates the black of the chest from the breast, which, with the whole of the under surface, is scarlet; the back and upper surface brownish yellow; the middle of the wings black, with fine transverse lines of white; primaries black, with their extreme outer edges white; the two middle tail-feathers chestnut brown; the two next black, with a streak of chestnut down the sides of the shafts; the three outer ones on each side black at their base, with white tips; naked space round the eyes deep blue, gradually uniting with black on the bill; legs and feet lead colour.

The female has the crown of the head, chest, and all the upper surface brown, inclining to grey on the chest; breast and under surface yellowish brown; wings black, their centres having fine transverse lines of brown; the tail-feathers nearly resembling those of the male, but much duller in hue; naked space round the eyes blueish lead colour; feet and legs dark brown.

Total length, 11 to 11½ inches; wing, 5 inches; tail, 6½ to 7.

*Trogon Malabaricus.* Gould, Proceedings of Zool. Soc., Part II. p. 26.

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I AM unwilling in most instances to bestow as a specific title upon any bird the name of the country of which it is an inhabitant; in the present instance, however, I have been induced to depart from this rule, from the circumstance of the present species being, as I believe, extremely local in its habitat. The Trogons in general do not appear to be a migratory tribe; it is therefore probable that that portion of the eastern continent alone which includes Malabar is the only country in which this fine species is to be seen in a state of nature. I am the more strengthened in this opinion as I have never observed it in collections brought from the adjacent islands.

In point of affinity it is somewhat allied to the *Trogon Temminckii*, while its inferior size, lengthened form, and more elegant contour, together with the total absence of the red ear-coverts and nuchal band, at once distinguish it from that species.

Capt. Walter Smee informs me that it is a solitary species, inhabiting the jungles which run parallel to the coast; and that it is generally seen in pairs in the most dense parts of the forest, sitting motionless on the dead branch of some elevated tree, until passing insects arouse it to exertion. Being partly nocturnal in its habits, it becomes animated on the approach of evening, when it glides after its prey (in the pursuit of which it displays the greatest activity and adroitness) with meteor-like swiftiness, returning again to some dead branch, much after the manner of the Flycatchers.

Habitat, Malabar.

The Plate represents a male and female.