

The late Dr. Jerdon has given the following account of the species in his 'Birds of India:—“The Malabar Trogon is found in the forests of Malabar from the extreme south to about 17° N. lat., reaching up the Ghâts and hill-ranges to at least 3000 feet. It is also found in some of the forests of Central India and in Ceylon.

“It prefers the more elevated situations, at about 2000 feet or so, and keeps generally to the thickest parts of the woods. It is often to be seen seated motionless on a branch of a tree, occasionally flying off to capture an insect on the wing, sometimes returning to the same perch, but oftener taking up a fresh position, and in this way wandering about a good deal. It is unusually solitary, sometimes in pairs; and I have seen four or five together. Its food consists of various insects, chiefly coleopterous. Layard says that it is found in small parties of three or four, and feeds on Spiders, Mantidæ, and Coleoptera. I am not aware of having heard its note, and certainly have generally found it a silent bird. Tickell, however, says that it has a wild querulous note like the mewling of a cat. Its Hindustani name is given from its sitting with the head sunk in the shoulders, as if it had no neck, or as if dressed up in a faquir's *kufni*.”

“In Ceylon,” writes Mr. Holdsworth, “it is only found among wild tree-jungles in the southern half of the island. I have seen it about twelve miles from Colombo, in a wild uncultivated district in the low country, and also at Nuwara Eliya, in February; but it is not very commonly met with, and is perhaps somewhat local in its distribution. In its manners it resembles the Flycatchers, and has generally a peculiar fluttering mode of flight.”

The sexes are represented in the Plate of the natural size.