

TROGON MELANOCEPHALUS, Gould.

Black-headed Trogon.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Mas.—*Vertice pectoreque sordidè nigris; corpore dorso, in toto, violaceo, viridi lucidè lavato; rectricibus tribus externis nigris, ad apicem albis.*

Male.—Head, occiput, throat and chest black; scapularies and back glossy bluish green, passing into violet-blue on the upper tail-coverts; wings black, the basal portion of the outer webs of the primaries fringed with white; two centre tail-feathers greenish blue, tipped with black; the remaining tail-feathers black, the three outer ones on each side largely tipped in a square form with white; breast and under tail-coverts rich gamboge-yellow; thighs black; bill horn-colour.

Total length, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, 1; wing, $6\frac{1}{4}$; tail, $6\frac{1}{4}$.

Female.—Head, throat, chest, all the upper surface, wings and tail slaty black; basal portion of the outer webs of the primaries margined with white; three outer tail-feathers squarely tipped with white; abdomen and under tail-coverts gamboge-yellow; thighs black.

Young male.—General plumage slaty black, with a wash of green on the back and upper tail-coverts; the wing-coverts and secondaries with a series of buff markings of different sizes and shapes on their outer webs; the two centre tail-feathers deep bronzy-green, the lateral feathers slightly toothed with white, and the white of the tips prolonged for some distance up the outer web, instead of being of a square form, as in the adult; feathers of the centre of the abdomen and the posterior under tail-coverts clouded black and white.

Trogon melanocephala, Gould, Mon. of Trogons, pl. 12.

— *melanocephalus*, Gray, List of Spec. of Birds in Coll. Brit. Mus., p. 42.—Gray and Mitch., Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 70, *Trogon*, sp. 17.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 149, *Trogon*, sp. 16.—Selater in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xxv. p. 227.

THE Trogons of Central America and Mexico possess peculiar characteristics, which at once separate them from the species found in Brazil and other parts of South America. In the present case we find a Trogon with a black head, a character not found in any other American species. When fully adult, the male is really a fine bird, the greenish blue of the back being very beautiful, and the three black outer tail-feathers, with their bold and squarely-formed white tips, showing very conspicuously: this latter feature would seem to be common to both sexes, that is, if the birds in my collection with a uniform sooty head, back and chest be of this sex. I say, if the birds so coloured be of this sex, because a suspicion has sometimes arisen that they may constitute another species; but until this be proved, I shall consider them as females of *T. melanocephalus*. I possess a youthful male of this species, having slight indications of white bars on the three outer tail-feathers, especially on their external margins; their tips are white, as in the adult; at this age these feathers do not present the remarkable truncate form of those of the adult, but are narrower and inclined to be pointed. Very young individuals are beautifully marked: one, which I presume to be about six weeks old, is represented by the lower figure in the accompanying Plate; it is in the collection of T. C. Eyton, Esq.

As stated in the former edition of this monograph, the first specimen I obtained of this species was from Tamaulipas; since then I have received fine examples from Mexico and Honduras.

The figures are of the natural size, with a reduced representation of the female.