

PHŒNICOCICHLA ARQUATA, Gould.

Necklaced Pitta.

Pitta (*Phœnicocichla*) *arquata*, Gould, in Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 4th series, vol. vii. p. 340.—Id. Birds of Asia, part 23.—Gray, Hand-list of Birds, pt. iii. p. 344. sp. 4370a.—Salvad. Ucc. di Borneo, p. 241.—Sharpe, Ibis, 1879, p. 263.

THE beautiful Necklaced Pitta, *Phœnicocichla arquata*, of which the present drawing represents three examples, makes Borneo its home.

This bird is somewhat allied to the *Pitta granatina* of Temminck and the *P. concinna* of Eyton. If there be any difference in size, it is perhaps a trifle smaller than either of those species; but is at once distinguishable from both by its very remarkable necklace.

In the year 1872 this beautiful Necklaced Pitta was described and figured in the 'Birds of Asia' under the specific name of *arquata*, and it was at the time the only specimen that had been collected. It formed part of an early collection made by Mr. Alfred Everett in the Sarawak district, and was a worthy commencement of the ornithological work for which that gentleman has since become so distinguished. Since then only one other specimen has been discovered, and that was found by Mr. W. H. Treacher on the Lâwas river in North-western Borneo: this second specimen now belongs to the University Museum of Oxford; and it shows how rare these birds are when, in a country like Borneo with several collectors at work, eight years elapse before a second example is obtained.

The "necklace," as I term the row of blue markings on the breast, is quite peculiar to this Pitta, and reminds me more than any thing else of the necklaces of shells (*Elenchus irisodontis*) which the Tasmanian women used to wear, as I saw them years ago, before they became extinct from the face of the earth.

Forehead, lores, and throat reddish buff; crown, nape, and breast rich rusty red; over, but posterior to, the eye a lovely stripe of blue, as in *Pitta granatina*; a broken tooth-like bar of the same hue across the breast, separating the rich rusty red of the chest from the deep scarlet of the abdomen; upper surface of the body and scapularies brownish olive; primaries and secondaries brown, tinged with green; the secondaries are also tipped with splendid blue, but not so conspicuously as in *P. granatina*; tail blue, tinged with olive; legs and bill black.

The fine specimens from which the accompanying figures were taken were received from Borneo. One is now in my collection, and the other in the Oxford Museum, as mentioned above.

The Plate contains three figures, of the natural size.