TRAGOPAN HASTINGII.

Female. $\frac{1}{2}$ Nat. Size.

TABB. LXIII., LXIV., ET LXV.

TRAGOPAN HASTINGSII.

Trag. dorso brunneo-fusco undulato, abdomine intensè rubro, amborum plumis ad apicem nigris in medio albo guttatis; cristâ crissoque atris, illâ ad apicem coccineâ, hoc albo maculato; collo posteriori coccineo; thorace aurantio; regione circumoculari nudâ; carunculisque pendentibus luteis; caudâ atrâ, lutescenti-albo undulatâ.

Longitudo corporis, 23 unc.; alæ, 11; caudæ, 9½; tarsi, 3¼.

THIS new species, on which we have bestowed the name of *Hastingsii* in honour of the Noble Marquis, whose patronage of science reflected as much credit on his government of India as his political career conferred glory, is no less beautiful than the foregoing species *T. Satyrus*. It somewhat exceeds that bird in size, and may readily be distinguished from it by the gorget of fiery orange which ornaments the lower parts of the neck; the feathers also of the breast and under parts are largely tipped with black, which, were it not for the white spot in the middle of each, would appear to be the uniform colour of this part, although the basal half of each feather is maroon.

Although this species and the last are closely allied to each other, and doubtless possess similar habits and manners, we are led to believe that their local distribution is somewhat different; at least we generally receive but one species in a collection from the same quarter; the *Tragopan Satyrus* being transmitted from the Nepaulese hills, while the present species is sent to us from the more northern range of the Himalaya. The changes of plumage which birds of this genus, especially the present, undergo in passing from youth to maturity are such as to have caused an apparently erroneous multiplication of species. Diligent and repeated observations of a series of these birds in the various stages of their plumage have satisfied us that there are in reality but three distinct species yet known, two of which are figured in the "Century," the third being the *Tragopan Temminckii* before alluded to as illustrated in the "Indian Zoology" of Major-general Hardwicke and Mr. Gray.

The head of the adult male is covered with a pendent crest of feathers, which as well as the ear-coverts and throat are black; the neck and shoulders are rich maroon; the chest rich glossy orange red; the naked skin around the eyes is red; the fleshy horns and wattles mingled blue and purple; the upper parts exhibit a mixture of zigzag lines and marks of dark and light brown, with numerous and distinct spots of white; each of the upper tail-coverts ends in a large white eye, bordered on the sides with brown, and tipped with black; the tail deepens till it ends in uniform black; the feathers of the under surface are maroon, largely tipped with black, in the centre of which is a large white spot; the beak is black; the tarsi brown.

In the young male the plumage is much less brilliant, the wattles being of a pale flesh colour, and little developed, as is also the naked skin of the face.

The plumage of the female consists of a uniform brown, mottled and barred with mingled lines and dots of various tints, the feathers of the back and chest having a central dash of a lighter colour; the head is crested with short rounded feathers; the sides of the cheeks are clothed, and there are neither fleshy horns nor wattles.

The respective Plates represent the male, young male, and female, two thirds of their natural size.

Gould, John. 1831. "Tragopan hastingsii [Tab. LXV]." *A century of birds from the Himalaya Mountains* –. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323528>.

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