TROGON ELEGANS, *Gould.*

J. Gould & H. C. Richter, del. et lith.

Walter Imp.

TROGON ELEGANS, *Gould.*

Graceful Trogon.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Mas. *Facie, capite anticè, auribus guttureque nigris; alis brunnescenti-nigris, in medio cinereis albo transversim flexuosè lineatis; rectricibus duabus intermediis proximarumque duarum utrinque pogonitis externis cupreo-viridibus; reliquis ad basin nigris, ad apicem albis, in medio præsertim pogonii externi albo nigroque fasciatis.*

Fœm. *Auribus in medio linedque circum oculum albis; torque pectorali subobsoletâ; suprâ et ad pectus cinereo-brunneus olivaceo tinctus; alis in medio cinereis maculis saturatoribus notatis; remigibus brunneis; ventre anticè brunnescenti-griseo in coccineum posticè transeunte.*

Male.—Face, fore part of the head, ear-coverts, and throat black; chest, back of the neck, back, and upper tail-coverts green; a white crescent separates the green of the chest from the breast, which together with the belly and under tail-coverts is scarlet; wings brownish black, the primaries having their outer edges fringed with white; secondaries and centre of the wings grey, strongly marked with zigzag transverse lines of black; two middle tail-feathers green with bronzy reflections on their outer webs, only the inner webs black; all six are largely tipped with black; the remaining six black at the base and white at the tip, the middle portions of these latter feathers barred with black and white; bill yellow.

Total length about 12 inches, *wing* 6, *tail* 7½.

Female.—Bill yellow; centre of the ear-coverts and a small rim round the eye white; the whole of the upper surface and chest greyish brown with a tinge of olive; primaries brown, their outer edges fringed with white; centre of the wings and secondaries grey, faintly speckled with spots of a darker colour; a faint pectoral band of white separates the feathers of the chest from those of the breast, which is light brownish grey on the upper part, gradually passing into scarlet below; two centre tail-feathers dull brown tipped with black, two next on each side black, the remainder are black at the base and white at the tip, the middle portion being white, irregularly blotted with black.

Trogon elegans, Gould, in Proc. of Zool. Soc., 1834, p. 26.—Id. Mon. of Trog., pl. 3.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 69, *Trogon*, sp. 13.

Trogonurus elegans, Bonap. Consp. Vol. Zygod., p. 14, gen. 2c, 22.

THE beautiful Trogon here figured under the specific title of *elegans* is a native of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras, countries rich beyond measure in zoological productions. It is most nearly allied to the bird I have called *ambiguus*, the chief point of difference being in the decided barring of the outer tail-feathers, and in the stronger markings of the wings.

The lengthened tails of many of the Mexican Trogons form a feature which distinguishes them from all

the other species of the American continent; and in this particular the *Trogon elegans* is especially conspicuous, inasmuch as its tail is longer than that of any other of the smaller species of the genus.

The female is readily distinguished from the male by her more obscure and less gay colouring.

The principal part of the foregoing appeared in the first edition of this Monograph; during the thirty years which have since elapsed so little information has been acquired respecting this bird that even the following brief note obligingly sent to me by Mr. Salvin must be regarded with interest.

"You ask me about *Trogon elegans*; unfortunately I never met with the species in Guatemala, though I believe it does occur occasionally in collections from Vera Paz. A little to the southward, in the neighbouring State of Honduras, the bird would appear to be more abundant, as Mr. George Cavendish Taylor, in his remarks on the birds observed during his journey across that country, states that he saw several of these birds in the forest, on the plain of Comayagua, and that he had no reason to suppose they were otherwise than common (Ibis, 1860, p. 117). The only skin I possess is that of a male which was obtained by the late Mr. Bridges in the woods bordering on Virgin Bay, Lake of Nicaragua. Southward of this I know of no recorded instance of the occurrence of this Trogon."

The Plate represents a male and a female, of the size of life. The plant is the *Bignonia radicans*.

Gould, John. 1869. "Graceful Trogon, Trogon elegans, Gould." *A monograph of the Trogonidæ or trogons* 2, -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323627>.

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