TROGON PERSONATUS, Gould.

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Black-faced Trogon.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Trog. vertice, corpore superiore et pectore splendide aureo-viridibus; loris, plumis auricularibus, et gutture nigris; reatricibus caudæ duabus intermediis ex aureo virescenti-fuscis, ad apicem nigris; utrinque proximâ pogonio interno et apice nigris, pogonio externo ex aureo virescenti-fusco; reatricibus externis nigris, lineis albis crebris et undulatis minutè fasciatis, ad apicem latè niveis; alis nigris, tectricibus et secundariis lineis cinereis minutis et irregularibus crebrè fasciatis; abdomine et corpore subtus coccineis; colore coccineo à viridi disjuncto lunulâ albâ; rostro aurantiaco.

Fœm. Capite, pectore et corpore superiore fuscis; reatricibus caudæ duabus intermediis sordide castaneis; gutture et plumis auricularibus nigris; abdomine et corpore subtus coccineis, hoc colore à fusco pectorali disjuncto lunulâ albâ.

Male.—Crown of the head, all the upper surface, and chest rich golden green; lores, ear-coverts, and throat black; two middle tail-feathers golden greenish brown and tipped with black, the next on each side have the inner web and tip black and the outer web golden greenish brown; the outer feathers black, crossed by numerous fine irregular bars, and largely tipped with pure white; wings black, the coverts and secondaries finely pencilled with irregular zigzag markings of light grey; primaries margined externally with light grey; abdomen and under surface scarlet, separated from the green of the chest by a narrow crescent of white; bill orange-yellow; feet yellowish brown.

Female.—Head, chest, and upper surface brown; two middle tail-feathers dull chestnut-brown, tipped with black; the two next on each side black on their inner webs and at the tip, and dull chestnut-brown on their outer webs; the remaining feathers black on their inner webs at the base, largely tipped with white, the intermediate portion being crossed by alternate irregular bars of black and white; wings as in the male, the coverts and secondaries freckled with yellowish brown instead of grey, and ear-coverts black; abdomen and under surface scarlet, which colour is separated from the brown of the chest by a crescent of white; bill and feet yellowish brown.

Total length 11 inches; bill $\frac{7}{8}$; wing $5\frac{1}{4}$; tail $6\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi $\frac{5}{8}$.

Trogon personatus. Gould, Ann. & Mag. N. H. ix. p. 237 (1842).

—— *heliothrix.* Tsch. Wieg. Arch. 1844, p. 300, et Fauna Peruana, pp. 41, 257.

Trogonurus personatus. Bp. Consp. Vol. Zyg. p. 14.

Trogon propinquus. Cab. & Hein. Mus. Hein. iv. p. 175.

? — *assimilis.* Gould, P. Z. S. 1846, p. 67.

ORNITHOLOGISTS are at the present moment divided in opinion as to whether the very common Trogons which inhabit the hill-country of Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru are referable to one, two, three, or more species, or whether these birds, having minor differences in markings and structure, should be considered mere local varieties of a widely spread bird; at all events it has been considered, by some of my colleagues, unnecessary to figure more than that first described.

The bird to which I originally gave the name of *personatus* is the one chosen for illustration in the accompanying Plate.

On this subject Mr. Salvin has been good enough to send me the following note :—

"This Trogon is sent in some numbers from the United States of Columbia in the collections made in the vicinity of Bogotá, and is thus, so far as the Trogons from this country are concerned, one of the best known of the whole group. Passing southwards it would appear to be almost equally common in the adjoining country of Ecuador, where, however, the distinct title of *T. propinquus* has recently been bestowed upon it by Messrs. Cabanis and Heine. As their characters were drawn from a single immature male specimen, they are not entitled to much consideration, especially as birds from Ecuador do not seem to be really distinguishable by any characters worthy of the name from Bogotá examples. That Tschudi's *Trogon heliothrix* also belongs to the same species I have no doubt; for, on a further examination of specimens sent from Peru by Mr. Whitely and called by us *T. heliothrix* (P. Z. S. 1869, p. 598), I am unable to detect any real difference between them and typical Bogotá birds.

"The most northern points in the range of this Trogon are Merida, where specimens were obtained by M. Anton Goering, and the mountain-ranges which lie to the eastward of the valley of the Magdalena, where Mr. Claude Wyatt met with it in his journey through that country. The latter traveller gives (Ibis, 1871, p. 375) the following interesting account of this species. He says :—'After leaving Canuto our road lay over a mountain where these birds must be tolerably common. We saw three that day in the oak-forest near the highest point of our road, at an elevation of about 8500 feet, and one in the denser forest lower down. We afterwards met with them occasionally in other parts of the forest until near Cachiri. The skin of these birds is exceedingly delicate; and the feathers come out in handfuls when they are shot, should they fall even a short distance before reaching the ground. . . . They are very tame, and generally sit motionless up in the trees (where the cock bird, should his back be turned to you, is very difficult to see), and allow one to ride by within a few yards. I have, however, seen them hawking for insects, and returning to the same perch, like a Flycatcher. From the gullet of one of those we shot we took a lizard. Their range seems to extend from an elevation of about 7000 to 8500 feet. Iris dark brown.'

"In Ecuador Fraser obtained *Trogon personatus* at several places. On specimens shot at Matos he says (P. Z. S. 1858, p. 555) :—'*Pilco*' (native name). 'Irides dark hazel; rim round the eyes red or very deep orange; bill, feet, and legs yellow. High up in the mountain, on the tops of the trees. Stomachs contained fruit, vegetable matter, and insects.' He found it also at Pallatanga and above Puellaró. Tschudi found it in Peru, where Mr. Whitely obtained specimens in the valley of the Cosnipata.

"It will thus be seen that this species is strictly confined in its range to the slopes of the Andes, and probably is seldom found in forests having a lower elevation than 6000 feet."

The Plate represents two males and a female, of the size of life.

Gould, John. 1875. "Black-faced Trogon, Trogon personatus, Gould." A *monograph of the Trogonidæ or trogons* 3, -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323643>.

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