non-existent in Australia. Two species of it occur in New Guinea
(G. dumonti and G. anais). Of the former of these we meet with a
beautiful representative in the present collection from the Solomons.

Again, the existence in the Solomons of two species of true Lorius
and one of Geoffroius is quite sufficient to show the Papuan tenden-
cies of the fauna; and from these facts alone Mr. Wallace has already
included the Solomon Islands in his Austro-Malayan region*.

The subsequent discovery of a second species of the peculiar
Papuan type Nasiterna in the Solomons has materially strengthened
Mr. Wallace's argument from what was then known of the Psitta-
cine fauna of these islands.

On the whole, therefore, it is manifest that the results derivable
from the study of the present collection serve only to confirm the
views Mr. Wallace has already put forward upon the avifauna of the
Solomons, namely that these islands constitute an eastern outlier of
the Papuan subregion. It need hardly be added that this makes
the further investigation of their fauna still more desirable. Where
such forms as Nasiterna pusio and Gracula kreffti occur, it is rea-
sonable to expect that other brilliant representatives of Papuan types
likewise remain to be discovered. It would not be surprising if even
new species of Paradisaeae were yet to be found in some of these
islands, or in the adjacent lands of New Ireland or New Britain, the
latter of which has already produced to us a very remarkable form
of one of the most characteristic of Papuan types (Casuarius
bennettii).

Under these circumstances, I trust that our Corresponding Member
Mr. KrefT and other numerous friends in Sydney will use their best
endeavours to persuade the owners of the vessels which, as I under-
stand, are trading between Sydney and these islands to lose no oppor-
tunity of acquiring specimens of their natural productions. And I
trust that the time may not be far distant when it may be possible
to fit out a regular expedition for the investigation of this rich but
hitherto comparatively neglected district.

2. On a very rare Parrot from the Solomon Islands.
By Dr. O. Finsch, C.M.Z.S.
(Plate XI.)

Amongst the species of Parrots which are more or less obscure
there is scarcely one rarer than the Lori cardinal of MM. Hombron
and Jacquinot, which is only known by the figure published in the
Atlas of Dumont-d'Urville's 'Voyage au Pole Sud' (pl. 24 bis.
fig. 2) in the year 1843. This plate represents a Lory belonging
apparently to the subgenus Eos, Bp., being throughout of a brilliant
scarlet, therefore an unmistakable species. The descriptive part of
the zoology of the French voyage, published ten years later, by

* Cf. P. Z. S. 1864, p. 278.
DOMICELLA CARDINALIS.
M. Jacquinot and Dr. Pucheran, gives no further account of the *Lorius cardinalis* (page 103), except the short notice that the species comes from the Solomon Islands. If I am right, the only specimen collected by the French naturalists of the expedition was, unfortunately, lost by the shipwreck of the ‘Astrolabe.’ When I was working out my Monograph of Parrots, I therefore was not able to give more than a description taken from the figure in the voyage; all my endeavours to get better information were without success. A new beam of hope arose when I was reading Prof. Rietmann’s ‘Wanderungen in Australien und Polynesien’ (St. Gallen, 1868), and found mentioned in that amusing and, in many respects, interesting book (page 194) “shining-red Parrots,” which were offered for sale by the natives of Guadalcanar during the stay of the traveller on that island. In the belief that these Red Parrots could be nothing more than *Lorius cardinalis*, I wrote a letter to Prof. Reitmann begging for more special information. In his kind answer the traveller was sorry to say that he was not sure whether these Parrots were quite red or not, not having brought home specimens of them; so that our knowledge of the Cardinal Lory remained as imperfect as before.

During my recent visit to London Dr. Sclater kindly showed me a very interesting collection of birds from the Solomon Islands, forwarded to him by Mr. Gerard Krefft of Sydney. This collection contained, besides two or three new species, most of the Parrots known from that group of islands, namely *Plictolophus ducorpsi*, Hombr. et Jacq., *Pionius heteroclitus*, Hombr. et Jacq., *Domicella hypnocro stacking Small. *Gray* (new to the Solomon Islands), and *Domicella chlorocerca*, Gould. Amongst them was a species of *Lorius*, which I, to my greatest pleasure and surprise, recognized immediately as the *Lorius cardinalis*, Hombr. et Jacq. A comparison with the plate shows some differences, in the specimen not being throughout of a brilliant scarlet, but having the upper parts decidedly brownish red and the feathers of the body beneath margined with pale orange-yellow. The latter peculiarity may be perhaps a sign of the specimen not being in mature state. The brilliancy of the colours in general has probably lost somewhat by the specimen having been preserved in spirits; but in any case one may say that the coloration of the plate in the ‘Voyage au Pôle Sud’ is too bright and a little exaggerated.

Concerning the generic position of this Parrot, it may be remarked that it belongs, according to coloration, along with *Domicella rubra*, Gm., *D. rubiginosa*, Bp., and the allied species, to the subgeneric division *Eos* of Prince Bonaparte. The shape of the bill, and the structure of the quills and tail-feathers, show a greater affinity to the so-called genus *Chalcopsitta*, Bp. (based upon *D. scintillata* and *D. atra*, Scop.), which is chiefly distinguished by a narrow, naked, black ring round the mandible, and more extended naked orbits.

Before describing this scarce specimen, I must remark that there are a few more Parrots of a more or less uniform red plumage, all being nearly, or entirely, unknown.
Finsch, O. 1869. "On a very rare Parrot from the Solomon Islands."

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