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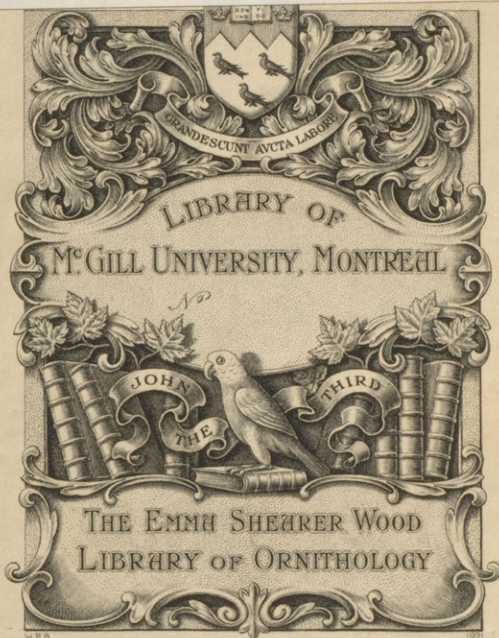


BY CAPT. BROWN, F.L.S.  
WITH THIRTY-SIX ENGRAVINGS  
BY JOSEPH B. KIDD.

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MACAWS, COCKATOOS,  
PARRAKEETS, AND PARROTS.

BY THE LATE

SIR THOMAS DICK LAUDER, BART., F.R.S.E.,

AND

CAPTAIN THOMAS BROWN, F.L.S.

WITH CHAPTERS ON DISEASES AND CAGES

From DR. KARL RUSS.

ILLUSTRATED WITH FORTY ENGRAVINGS

By JOSEPH B. KIDD.

Member of the Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and  
Architecture.

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## MACAWS, COCKATOOS, PARRAKEETS AND PARROTS.

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### PHYSICAL CHARACTERS OF PARROTS.

THOSE animals which, in any particular, approximate to the nature of man, have always excited in him more interest than any others. At the head of these may be ranked, among birds, the tribe of Parrots.

**Tongue.** The whole members of the extensive family of Parrots have a thick, hard, solid bill, round in all its parts, the base being surrounded by a membrane, in which the nostrils are pierced. They have a soft, thick, fleshy, round tongue, capable of great mobility, which, with their complicated larynx, provided with three muscles, enables them to imitate articulate sounds, and more particularly that of the human voice. In the division of Parrots proper, the skin which covers the tongue is frequently fine, dry and provided with papillæ (or small nipples), which De Blainville says are arranged longitudinally, and

placed on a kind of anterior disc, supported by a crescent-shaped corneous annulation (or horny ring). These papillæ are invested by a pigmentous (or coloured) deposit, covered by a very slender epidermis (or outer skin). In the division which includes the Cockatoos, the tongue is cylindrical, rather lengthened, but not flexible; of a flesh colour, and solid, terminated by a small, black, somewhat corneous gland, with its centre hollowed. This little corneous gland is the true tongue of the animal, while the cylindrical portion by which it is sustained, is merely an extension of the hyoid (bone of the tongue) apparatus, which the animal can elongate at will by an annular apparatus, somewhat analogous to the tongue of Woodpeckers. This tongue is an organ of sense, having the properties of touch and prehension (or holding), for the purpose of swallowing.

Some of the species of this group, which inhabit the South Sea Islands and Australia, have a tongue terminated by a crown-formed bundle of gristly thread-like hairs. The muscles of their jaws are greatly stronger than those of other birds. Their feet have two toes placed forward, and two backward; which, with the assistance of their bills, fit them for climbing.

**Head.** The head is large and round; the bill is short, thick, robust, protuberant, and much arcuated (or bent in the shape of a bow), both above and below;



the upper mandible (or jaw) is greatly bent, hooked at the point, and provided with a notch ; the under mandible is short and truncated, with a cere or naked skin at its base ; the nostrils are roundish, and placed within the cere, or naked skin that covers the base of the knee ; the legs are short, and very strong ; the tarsus, or part of the foot to which the leg is joined, shorter than the external toe ; and the interior toes attached at their base.

**Body.** In the shape and length of body, there is great variety in this tribe. Some are robust and short, while others are elegant and taper in their form ; the breasts of the whole species are well rounded.

**Eyes.** Eyes of Parrots are placed laterally, and are of moderate dimensions. The upper and under lid is continuous, forming a rounded orifice, bordered with small tubercles (or knobs), which support the eye-lashes in its entire circumference. The upper part of the lid is mobile, and the nictitating (or winking) membrane is so small, that it is never observed to be used by them. The pupil is round, and not placed exactly central, but inclining towards the internal circumference of the iris. A peculiarity in parrots, is the power they have of contracting the pupil at will, and not dependent on the action of light, which may be more particularly noticed when under the influence of fear, anger, or any other internal commotion. The iris, as in other

animals, is subject to great variety of colour in the different species. The colour of the iris deepens as they increase in years.

**Ear.** The opening of the ear is of an oval shape, and small in its dimensions; it is placed obliquely forward, and is always covered with feathers.

**Cheek.** In the Macaws, the cheeks are destitute of feathers, but in their stead are covered with a white farinaceous (or floury) powder; and the skin, in the division called *Microglossus*, is coloured; while in other divisions the space round the eye is more or less devoid of feathers, and covered with farina. This farina appears produced by the epidermis, and invests the whole surface of the skin in many species; and may be seen in considerable quantities emanating from the birds when they shake their feathers.

**Neck.** The neck of the Parrots is rather short than otherwise, and somewhat thick, but is capable of elongation to a certain extent.

**Climbing.** Parrots are formed in an eminent degree for climbing. Not only does their general conformation indicate this, but the strength and arrangement of their toes distinctly prove it. They walk but slowly on the ground, and in a very awkward manner, from the vacillating swing of their body, occasioned by the shortness and wide separation of their legs.

**In eating** they make great use of their feet, with

which they perform the office of hands, holding their food firmly with the claws of one foot, while they support themselves on the other. They do not present their food to their bills in the ordinary manner,—for other animals turn their meat inwards, to the mouth; but these, in a seemingly awkward position, turn their food outwards. They hold the hardest nuts as if in one hand, till with their bills they break the shell, and extract the kernel.

**Legs.** Although short and clumsy legs are a general characteristic of the Parrot family, yet there are some which have long legs, and toes more fitted for walking than climbing, being shorter and straighter, as may be instanced in the Ground Parrot. The birds of this kind have been formed into a separate genus by Illiger, under the name of *Pezoporus*. The claws of this division are but slightly bent; and the birds remain almost constantly on the ground, and run about with great swiftness.

**Bill.** The bill is very peculiar in its formation, for both the upper and lower mandibles, or jaws, are moveable. In most other birds, the upper mandible is connected with, and forms part of the skull; but in Parrots, and a few other tribes, it is only connected with the bone of the head by a strong membrane, which is placed on each side, and that lifts and depresses it at pleasure. By this curious contrivance,

they can open their bills the more widely, which, to them, is an indispensable property, as the upper mandible is so much hooked, and so overhanging, that, if the lower chap only had motion, they could scarcely gape sufficiently to take anything in for their nourishment. In climbing, Parrots are greatly assisted by their bills, for they rest upon branches by the under mandible, while, with the upper one, they sustain themselves, both in the act of ascending and descending.

**Wings.** As might be expected in a family so extensive, there is considerable variety in the length and structure of the wings; which are in general, however, rather short; and, as their bodies are usually bulky, they have consequently some difficulty in rising to any great altitude; but, having once gained a certain height, they fly easily, and some species with much rapidity. Some are capable of making considerable aerial excursions. The usual mode of flight, of many species, is simply from one branch to another; and unless they are violently disturbed or pursued, these will seldom be tempted to make a continuous flight.

**Tail.** The number of feathers in the tails of Parrots is always twelve; but they are subject to great variety of length in the different species, as also in the relative lengths of the feathers in individual species. The general form is also exceed-

ingly varied, as graduated, arrow or spear shaped, straight, or square. The upper tail feathers are very much elongated in some species of the last division of Parrots, which character obtains mostly in species whose tails are graduated, and are very rarely met with in those which are straight at their termination.

**Colour of Feathers.** In the general distribution of the colours, there appear to be some fixed rules. The quills of the wings are usually gray, brown, or black at their under-face, and on the interior of their barbs, which are concealed from view; and the visible parts are of high-toned colours. The external lateral tail-feathers, and the two intermediate ones, are frequently different in colour from the rest of the tail-feathers.

The edge of the epaulette of the wing, for the most part, is of a different colour from the upper part of the wing, being usually yellow or red; and the upper and under tail coverts differ from each other, and also from the feathers of the rump. When the back is green, the wing-quills and lateral tail-feathers are of a pale grayish-blue, or, at least, are of a blue of greater or less intensity. The forehead, for the most part, is marked with red, blue, or yellow. In some species there is a tuft of feathers, forming a kind of crest, which is bounded by the eyes and occiput, and usually of a different colour

from the other parts of the head. Although Parrots be sometimes clouded, yet there is not any instance known of individual feathers being spotted, like those of the predatory birds, or of the sparrows. In a young state, the plumage has frequently a scaled or meshed appearance, resulting from the feathers of the body, and particularly of the lower parts, being bordered with a different tint from their ground-colour. Those feathers are arranged over each other like the scales of a fish. This is more particularly the case with young individuals, in many of which insulated feathers are sometimes observable, of a different colour from the surrounding plumage. These feathers are part of the plumage which is destined to succeed that in which they are invested, and which have made a more rapid growth than the others. These serve as a sure indication of the colours which are to be on the parts where they shoot out; and in young birds will point out their species, if before doubtful.

In many instances the females differ in the colour of their plumage from that of the male; but when it is the same, it is for the most part duller in its hue.

It has been asserted that the natives of Brazil can change the colour of the plumage of Parrots; if this is the case they can increase the list of species, as colour is frequently all that constitutes a specific difference in birds.

**Migration.** The Carolina Parrot migrates according to the season. This is also the case with a limited number of other species, which are well known to travel a distance of some hundred leagues. The species whose powers of flight are limited are found to be inhabitants of the Polynesian group of islands.

**Sleep.** Parrots are almost always gregarious, except during incubation, at which time some of the species separate into pairs. The whole tribe retire to rest at sunset, and awake with the dawn of day. They sleep lightly, with the head turned towards the back, and partially covered by the feathers, which they erect; and it is not unusual for them to utter cries during the night.

**Domestication.** In a state of domestication Parrots accommodate themselves to the habits of the family with which they reside, seldom retiring to rest at night while there is any talking, but continue chattering as long as the family remain out of bed. It is said that the evening is the best time for instructing them in the imitation of language, as they have fewer attractions at that time. They, are however, diurnal (or day) birds.

**Habits.** All this numerous family are monogamous. They nestle in holes in the trunks of trees, or in the crevices of rocks, laying a foundation of rotten wood in the former situation, or dried leaves

in the latter. They only lay three or four eggs at a time, but they incubate several times in a year.

**Eggs.** The eggs are equally obtuse at both ends, about the size of those of a pigeon, and of a white colour. The young, when hatched, are quite naked, and the head disproportionately large in comparison to the body, which, in many cases, they have scarcely the power of elevating. Their first covering consists of down, which, in the course of two or three weeks, is superseded by feathers. They are protected and fed by their parents till they have undergone the first moult.

**Incubation.** After they pair, and engage in the important business of incubation, all attention, on the side of either parents or offspring, is for ever terminated. It was long supposed that Parrots would not breed in captivity, nor out of their native country; but the truth of this was put to the test in the years 1740 and 1741, when many of these birds incubated, in a domesticated state, in different parts of Europe. In 1801, the Amazon Parrot (*Psittacus Amazonicus*) bred at Rome. We have an interesting and detailed account of various broods of a pair of blue Macaws (*Psittacus araruna*) which bred at Caen, in France, from the pen of M. Lamouroux, professor of Natural History to that town. These birds, the property of M. Esnault, of Caen, commenced incubation in March, 1818, and up to August, 1822, they had



nineteen broods; and the female had laid, during that period, sixty-two eggs. Of these, twenty-five were productive, and ten only of the young birds died. The others lived, throve remarkably well, and seemed quite naturalized to the climate.

**Hatching.** A curious fact respecting the hatching of Parrots is that they incubate at all seasons, the female laying eggs in the winter as well as in the summer, and bringing up the young ones. Almost every brood follows in rapid succession. The number of eggs hatched at a time varies from three to six. The period the female sits on her eggs is from twenty to twenty-five days, depending on the time of the year and state of the atmosphere. The eggs are about the size of those of pigeons, of the shape of a pear, slightly flattened at the broad end. The young ones continue nearly naked, with only a few scattered fibres, till about the fifteenth day, if the season is warm, and till the twentieth if it is cold, at which time they receive a very thick covering of soft, pale, slate-gray coloured down. It is not till the thirtieth day that the feathers begin to appear, which are not perfected for ten days thereafter. They generally abandon the nest when three months old, at which time they feed themselves; up to this period they are fed by the parent birds, who disgorge the food from their bills in the manner of pigeons. At six months the plumage has all the lustre

and beauty of the adult birds; but they do not reach their full maturity till from twelve to fifteen months.

A good style of nesting-place is a small barrel, pierced, towards the third of its height, with a hole of about six inches in diameter. In the bottom place a quantity of sawdust, three inches in thickness. On this let the female lay her eggs and sit until they are hatched.

**Food.** In a wild state, Parrots feed principally on the pulps of fruit; those of the banana, the coffee-tree, the lemon, and palm, are their especial favourites. They are particularly fond of almonds; and penetrate the pulp only that they may get to the kernel. They show great dexterity in opening the shell, which they do by placing the separation of the valves in a line with the cutting-edge of their upper mandible; and, by the strong pressure which they apply, soon separate the valves, which they adroitly reject, and devour the almond itself.

Some of the New South Wales Cockatoos feed on roots, and others on herbs. The favourite food of the Carolina Parrot is the cockle-bur; while, in South America, they feed on the guava, the acajou, and the berries of many species of aromatic (or strong-scented) plants.

Though in a domesticated condition, the whole family of Parrots will eat almost any kind of food;

bread,\* biscuit, dry maize (scalded with boiling water), oats, and potatoes are good for them, and are much relished by the species. They are also partial to seeds, and thrive well on hemp-seed, from which they remove the husks with great facility; but the oil which these seeds contain is of so penetrating a nature, that it communicates a strong and rather disagreeable odour to their plumage. They will, also, take animal food, and they not unfrequently acquire a strong predilection for it. Indeed, instances have been known when they rejected all other nutriment. This predilection produces in Parrots a relish for plucking out their own feathers, so that they might suck the blood from the stems. Some have been so much addicted to this, that they stripped their whole bodies, not even excepting the down, the larger feathers of their wings and tails alone being left, in consequence of the pain that would have been occasioned by plucking them out. Latreille, the celebrated entomologist, had a Parrot which so completely denuded itself, that Desmarest said, "It resembled a pullet ready plucked for roasting." In this naked condition it survived, with unimpaired health and appetite, two rigorous winters. Vieillot, however, is of opinion that it is not from an acquired

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\* Sour and milk bread must be avoided. The bread should be hard, broken into pieces, and moistened with a little water to make it soft and crummy.

habit of eating animal food that Parrots thus pluck out their plumage, but from some irritation in the skin. Our own observation has taught us to believe that animal food produces an intense itching in the Parrot's skin, which gives rise to this habit; and we have known it induced by giving the bird a small quantity of butter, which chanced to be slightly impregnated with salt. Parrots should be given fruits in season, such as cherries, apples, grapes, and pears, but fruit should be discontinued if the excretions are slimy and loose.

**Drink.** Parrots drink frequently, but in small quantities: in this operation they raise their heads less than is the custom with other birds. In a domestic state they have been taught to drink wine, and to eat bread which has been immersed in wine.

The whole tribe seem fond of water, and may be seen in great numbers on the borders of streams, or in marshy places, in their native haunts, washing and bathing themselves, even several times a day; and, having shaken the water from their plumage, spread their wings to be dried by the sun and air. They exhibit the same predilection for bathing in a captive, as they do in a wild state.

**Age.** Many Parrots attain a great age; the mean duration of their existence being estimated at forty years. But there have been instances of their living in captivity to ninety and even one hundred

years. That division called Parrakeets are shorter-lived, from twenty-five to thirty years being the average length of their lives.

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### INTELLECTUAL AND IMITATIVE FACULTIES OF PARROTS.

AMONG the numerous foreign birds which are imported into Great Britain, the family of Parrots are better known than any others. They are especial pets, from the splendour of their plumage, the extreme docility of their manners, and their great intelligence.

The sagacity which Parrots exhibit in a state of domestication, is also natural to them in their native forests. They associate together in large flocks, and mutually assault such animals as attempt to attack any individual of their community, and by their courage discomfit their enemy, or intimate an unwelcome intruder by their notes of warning.

Although many of the feathered tribes have the faculty of imitating the human voice, yet none of them in this respect can be at all compared to many different species of parrots. The voice of the Raven is too hoarse, that of the Jay and Magpie too sharp, to resemble the truth; but the note of Parrots is of the true pitch, and susceptible of nearly as much variety of modulation as that of man himself.

**Imitation.** It is truly surprising with what

facility they imitate and acquire different words, and even sentences. We have now beside us a specimen of the common Green Parrot, which we borrowed to study its habits. For the first time, it heard this day the name of Emily called out pretty sharply from our lobby; it instantly imitated the word, as distinctly and as nearly as possible in the same tone; it made a second attempt at the word, but with less success. This name was repeatedly pronounced before it in the course of the day, and it frequently imitated it with great distinctness. There must be something in the sound of this name which has affected its ear, for we have tried it with a variety of other words which it has never once attempted to repeat.

Willughby mentions a curious story of a Parrot. He says, "A Parrot belonging to King Henry VII., who then resided at Westminster, in his palace by the river Thames, was taught to talk many words from the passengers, as they happened to take the water. One day, sporting on its perch, the poor bird fell into the water, at the same time crying out as loud as he could, *A boat! twenty pounds for a boat!* A waterman, who happened to be near, hearing the cry, made to the place where the Parrot was floating, and, taking him up, restored him to the king, as it seems the bird was a favourite."

A gentleman who resided at Gosport, in Hampshire, and had frequent business across the water

to Portsmouth, was astonished one day, on going to the beach to look for a boat, and finding none, to hear the words, distinctly repeated, "Over, master? Going over?" (which was the manner in which watermen were in the habit of accosting people, when they were waiting for passengers). The cry still assailing his ears, he looked earnestly around him to discover from whence the voice came, when, to his great surprise, he beheld the Parrot in a cage, suspended from a public-house window on the beach, vociferating the boatmen's expressions.

A Parrot which had grown old with its master, shared with him the infirmities of age. Being accustomed to hear scarcely anything but the words, "I am sick," when a person asked it, "How do you do?" "I am sick," it replied, with a doleful tone, stretching itself along, "I am sick."

**Dancing.** Besides the faculty of imitating articulate language, Parrots have also been known to *mimic gestures and actions*. Scaliger saw one that performed the dance of the Savoyards, at the same time that it repeated their song. It was fond of hearing a person sing; and, when it saw anyone dance, would try to imitate them, but with a very awkward grace.

**Singing.** In October, 1822, the following announcement appeared in the London papers:—"A few days ago died, in Half Moon Street, Piccadilly, the

celebrated Parrot of Colonel O'Kelly. This singular bird sang a number of songs in perfect time and tune. She could express her wants articulately, and give her orders in a manner nearly approaching to rationality. Her age was not known. It was, however, more than thirty years; for, previous to that period, Colonel O'Kelly bought her at Bristol for one hundred guineas. The Colonel was repeatedly offered five hundred guineas a-year for the bird by persons who wished to make a public exhibition of her; but this, out of tenderness to the favourite, he constantly refused." This bird could not only repeat a great number of sentences, but also answer a number of questions put to her. When she sang, she beat time with all the regularity of a scientific performer; and she seemed so much alive to musical melody, that, if she mistook a note by accident, she would again revert to the bar where she had committed the error, still, however, beating time, and finishing her song with much accuracy.

**Soliloquy.** We are told by Comte de Buffon, that his sister had a Parrot which would frequently speak to himself, and seemed to fancy that someone addressed him. He often asked for his paw, and answered by holding it up. Though he liked to hear the voice of children, he seemed to have an antipathy to them, and bit them till he drew blood. He had also his objects of attachment, and, though his choice



was not very nice, it was constant. He was excessively fond of the cook-maid; followed her everywhere, sought for her when absent, and seldom missed finding her. If she had been some time out of his sight, the bird climbed with his bill and claws to her shoulder, and lavished on her his caresses. His fondness had all the marks of close and warm friendship. The girl happened to have a sore finger, which was tedious in healing, and so painful as to make her scream. While she uttered her moans, the Parrot never left her chamber. The first thing he did every day was to pay her a visit, and this tender condolence lasted the whole time of her confinement, when he returned to his former calm and settled attachment.

Yet all this strong predilection for the girl would seem to have been more directed to her office in the kitchen than to her person, for when another cook-maid succeeded her, the Parrot showed the same degree of fondness to the new comer on the very first day of her arrival.

**Blue Macaw.** Dr. Thornton had a Blue Macaw, which attracted great attention at the time. This extraordinary bird was in servitude at Mr. Brook's menagerie, in Haymarket. Like others of his tribe, he was chained by the leg, and fed upon scalded bread. Here he learned to imitate the cackling of fowls, the barking of dogs; to mimic his exhibitors, and other human sounds.

It was bought by Dr. Thornton for fifteen guineas, to grace his museum, or botanical exhibition. When in a confined room in Bond Street, he made those screaming noises so offensive in his tribe. He seemed sulky and unhappy; but being brought to the doctor's house (his botanical exhibition being closed), the doctor, from motives of humanity as well as for experiment, took away the chain that confined him to his perch. His feet were so cramped, and the muscles so much weakened from long disuse, that he could not walk. He tottered at every step, and appeared, in a few minutes only, greatly fatigued. His liberated feet, however, soon acquired uncommon agility; his plumage grew more resplendent, and he became completely happy. He no longer indulged in screams of discontent, and all his gestures denoted gratitude. His food was now changed, and he breakfasted with the family, having toast and butter; and dined upon potatoes, hard dumplings, with fruit occasionally after dinner. He never drank like other Parrots. His sense of smelling was uncommonly quick. He was quite acquainted with the time of meals, which he marked by a continued agitation of the wings, running up and down the pole, and uttering a pleasing note of request.

When he received his food he half opened his wings and contracted the pupils of his eyes, and uttered a pleasing note of thankfulness. If he got any food of

which he was not very fond he took it in his left foot, and, having eaten a little, threw the rest down; but if the food were nice and abundant he carefully conveyed it to his tin reservoir, and left for another repast that which he could not consume in the meantime. He soon forgot his barbarous sounds, and imitated words; and for hours together amused himself in saying, "Poll," "Macaw," "Turn him out," "Pretty fellow," "Saucy fellow," "What's o'clock?" laughing, and calling out the names of the doctor's children. If any were hurt he gave the first alarm; nor did he desist until they were attended to. The doctor's son, observing the sagacity of this bird, undertook to instruct him. He taught him at word of command to descend from his perch and stand upon his finger; then by another order he turned himself downwards, and hung upon the forefinger by one foot, although the body was swung about with much violence. Being next asked how a person should be served, the spectator waited for an answer, but the bird said nothing, and, seizing his master's finger, suspended himself by his bill like one hanging. At the desire of his master he extended his wings to show their beauty. He would then fan the spectators with his wings. He was next put on the ground, and then walked as readily backwards as forwards with his two toes in front and two behind. He would then clamber like a sailor up the

mizzen, and with his two open mandibles embrace his perch, which was nearly two inches in thickness. Placed there, he was asked if a certain gentleman were to come near him how he should be served. He shook his head several times, raised his wings, erected his feathers, and opened his mouth, laid hold of a finger, seemingly in earnest, and kept biting it, as though he would have taken it off, opposing every resistance, and when he liberated the finger uttered a scream. He was then asked how he would serve his master, when he would gently bite his finger, caress it with his beak and tongue, and hold his head down, as if expecting it to be scratched. Nor is this all: a nut being given to him, while on the lower part of his stand, he mounted the upright stick, and the nut disappeared without the spectator being able to tell how. At the word of command he presented it to the company, held it in his paw, and then cracked it. He had been taught to conceal the nut under his tongue, in the hollow of the under mandible. When a peach-stone was given to him he found out its natural division, and, after repeated efforts, he contrived to open it and eat the kernel. When nuts were presented to him he became all agitated; and he had so much sagacity, that, without cracking, when he took up a bad nut he knew it to be so without cracking it, and very indignantly threw it on the ground. He was remarkably fond of music;

and with motions of his feet along the perch, movements of his wings, and his head moving backwards and forwards, he danced to all lively tunes, and kept exact time. If anyone sung or played in wrong measure he quickly desisted.

He was very friendly to strangers, and put on a terrific appearance towards children, for fear of injury from them, and was very jealous of infants. In rainy weather the blue feathers looked green; and also in clear weather, when there were vapours in the sky; hence he was an admirable weather-gauge. What proved a peculiar sagacity in his imitations, was that they were effected sometimes without his voice: for example, there was a scissors-grinder, who came every Friday into the street where the bird was kept. All Parrots have a file in the inside of the upper mandible, with which they grind down the under-bill, and in this they are employed for an hour every evening. This sound people usually mistake for snoring. The scraping was attempted, but the nice ear marked the difference, and he had recourse to his claws, which he struck against the perch, armed with tin, and observing the time of the turning of the wheel, he effected a most exact imitation, which he repeated every Friday. Sometimes the child's pap would be taken to the window, and beaten with the spoon; this he would immediately imitate by striking his broad bill against the sides of his perch.

The light of candles would awaken him, and he would then dance and discriminate persons; but on being presented with sugar, or any food, he often missed it. He frequently on such occasions became anxious to be held upon the hands, to flutter his wings; but he never seemed to have any inclination to fly, and appeared perfectly happy in the partial liberty which he enjoyed.

**Seeming mischievousness.** Parrots are sometimes extremely quick in picking up certain words that happen to strike their ears, and this they often do very untowardly, so as afterwards to repeat them with an apparently mischievous intent; of which, however, they ought to be entirely acquitted, since the strange coincidences which they sometimes produce, are merely the result of accident, like those which are often set down as the accomplishment of modern dreams or prophecies. We remember a Parrot which belonged to a lady, which was the innocent means of getting his mistress into a very unfortunate scrape. A friend of hers having called one forenoon, the conversation of the two ladies took that turn towards petty scandal to which, we grieve to say, it is but too frequently bent. The friend mentioned the name of a lady of their acquaintance. "Mrs. ———!" exclaimed the owner of the Parrot, "Mrs. ——— drinks like a fish." These words were hardly uttered, when the footman, in a loud voice, announced

“Mrs. ——!” and as the new visitor, a portly, proud dame, came sailing into the room, “Mrs. ——!” exclaimed the Parrot, “Mrs. —— drinks like a fish.” Mrs. —— wheeled round with the celerity of a troop of heavy dragoons, furiously to confront her base and unknown maligner. “Mrs. ——!” cried the Parrot again, “Mrs. —— drinks like a fish.” “Madam,” exclaimed Mrs. —— to the lady of the house, “this is a piece of wickedness towards me which must have taken you no short time to prepare. It shows the blackness of your heart towards one for whom you have long pretended a friendship; but I shall be revenged.” It was in vain that the mistress of the Parrot rose and protested her innocence; Mrs. —— flounced out of the room in a storm of rage, much too loud to admit of the voice of reason being heard. The Parrot, delighted with his new-caught-up words, did nothing for some days but shout out, at the top of his most unmusical voice, “Mrs. ——! Mrs. —— drinks like a fish.” Meanwhile, Mrs. ——’s lawyers having once taken up the scent, succeeded in ferreting out some information, that ultimately produced written proofs, furnished by some secret enemy, that the lady’s imprudence in the propagation of this scandal had not been confined to the instance we have mentioned. An action at law was raised for defamation. The Parrot was arrested and carried into

court to give oral testimony of the malignity of the plot which was supposed to have been laid against Mrs. ——'s good fame; and he was by no means niggardly of his testimony, for, to the great amusement of the bench, the bar, and all present, he was no sooner produced than he began, and continued loudly to vociferate, "Mrs. ——! Mrs. —— drinks like a fish!" till judges and jury were alike satisfied of the merits of the case; and the result was that the poor owner of the Parrot was cast with immense damages.

**Sagacity.** Goldsmith says, that "the extreme sagacity and docility of the bird may be pleaded as the best excuse for those who spend whole hours in teaching their Parrots to speak; and indeed, the bird, on those occasions, seems the wiser animal of the two. He at first obstinately resists all instruction; but seems to be won by perseverance, makes a few attempts to imitate the first sounds, and, when it has got one word distinctly, all the succeeding words come with greater facility. The bird generally learns more in those families where the master and mistress have the least to do, and becomes more expert in proportion as its instructors are idly assiduous. In going through the towns of France some time since, I could not help observing how much plainer their Parrots spoke than ours, and how very distinctly I understood their Parrots speak French, when I could not understand our own, though they spake my native



language. I was at first for ascribing it to the different qualities of the two languages, and was for entering into an elaborate discussion on the vowels and consonants ; but a friend that was with me solved the difficulty at once, by assuring me that the French women scarcely did anything else the whole day than sit and instruct their feathered pupils ; and that the birds were thus distinct in their lessons, in consequence of continual schooling."

Although Parrots are endowed with the faculty of imitating articulate sounds in a much higher degree than all other animals, yet we must not consider this a proof of their superior intelligence, as approaching to that of human intellect.

**The brain** of Parrots is larger and more perfect than that of any other of the races of birds. The organs are better developed, and more numerous in their convolutions, the anterior lobe of its hemispheres being more prolonged than in predatory birds, with a considerably wider encephalon, or head, which is more flattened than long. But, with this superiority of cerebral development, we can by no means compare their intelligence with that of humanity. It forms, as it were, a point of contact, but it has no resemblance,—for all they utter is not from reflection, but from imitation ; and it is quite certain that they do not understand the meaning of the words or sentences which they chatter.

**Imitation.** There are two kinds of imitations connected with animal life. The one is entirely of a physical nature, and depends on organic similitude; the other is dependent on the mind. The first of these is possessed by Monkeys, Parrots, and other animals; while the second is an attribute of man alone: the one dependent on memory only, with organic functions, fitted for acquiring; the other is dependent on mental reflection and study. But the immediate cause of our propensity to imitation above that of other animals, arises from the greater facility with which, by the sense of touch, we acquire the ideas of the outline of objects, and afterwards, in consequence, by the sense of sight.

It is not to superior intelligence that we must attribute the imitative qualities of Parrots, but to an organic formation of the parts which produce the voice, aided by an aptitude in their musical capacity. For we find that the imitative propensities are not confined to this tribe alone, but are possessed in an inferior degree by Jays, Magpies, Starlings, and Blackbirds: the Mocking-bird of America, and even many of the smaller birds, have the faculty of imitating human speech,—all to be attributed to organic structure, rather than to superior intellectual endowments.

**Intelligence.** While we have thus endeavoured to dispossess Parrots of any mental qualities superior

to those which all animals enjoy, in a greater or less degree, we willingly allow them a large portion of intelligence. They possess many of those feelings which endear them to the human race. Most of the species are affectionate and docile, forming strong and lasting attachments to individuals. They can express by their gestures and voice the strongest indications of regard, and will even caress the object of their attachment in a tender manner; while they utter sounds so expressive of regard, that they cannot be misunderstood by those who are accustomed to their company. They can at once distinguish a stranger, and will not allow him to use any familiarity; and to some individuals with whom they are acquainted, they sometimes manifest capricious aversion, which nothing but severity of treatment will subdue, and that only in a temporary way; for it has been known to continue for many years, and not to be overcome either by caresses or correction.

**Notes.** The natural notes of Parrots are, for the most part, harsh and discordant screams, and almost every species utters sounds peculiar to itself.

**Instruction.** All Parrots are susceptible of a considerable degree of education; but, as is the case with most other animals, the earlier their instruction commences the better. Various modes are adopted for impressing upon them obedience. Some of these consist in punishments, and others in rewards. Of

the latter, sugar, sweet wine, and stone-fruit, form important articles of temptation; and, as punishments, immersion in cold water, and puffing at them with tobacco smoke, are resorted to. Another powerful stimulant is to scratch their head, of which they are excessively fond, as indeed are almost the whole feathered creation; and nothing so soon renders smaller birds tame and familiar as frequently taking them in the hand and scratching their heads. Parrots are also soon taught to obey by using loud and authoritative tones to them; and they are extremely susceptible of impressions from mild and affectionate words.

The Amazon Parrot (*Psittacus aestivus*) and the Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erythacus*) are the most susceptible of education of all their congeners. They can articulate more distinctly and imitate more naturally the cries of animals, and particular sounds, than any others of their tribe. A friend of ours, in Great King Street, Edinburgh, had a Parrot which kept excellent time to a pianoforte, while the lady of the house was playing. This it did by a chicking sound, and occasionally by a strange kind of note. They have been taught to whistle airs consisting of several bars, going through the tune with much precision and effect. Instances have been known of these species imitating the human voice in singing, and with so much modulation that strangers are deceived

by it. This is the more remarkable, as the natural notes of both these species are harsh and grating in the extreme. It is said by those who have visited the native retreats of these two species, that they are to be seen in vast flocks, and perched on trees, uttering, more especially in the morning, the most disagreeable and even tremendous screaming.

It is not in vocal imitations alone that Parrots are capable of instruction; for they can be taught to perform various gestures, and to assume some curious postures. They have been instructed to lie down on their backs at the word of command, and to continue, as if dead, without moving a limb, until their master ordered them to rise, when they would suddenly start to their feet. They can be taught to dance, and to use a stick, with which they perform several curious evolutions. Scaliger saw one that performed the dance of the Savoyards, at the same time that it repeated their song. It delighted in hearing any one sing, and when it saw them dance, it tried to imitate their gestures.

Parrots are instructed to articulate sounds by constantly repeating to them the words which it is intended they should acquire.

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## THE CAROLINA PARROT

(*Psittacus Carolinensis*).

THE *plumage* of this bird is not so much diversified in colour as many others of the extensive group to which it belongs, and it is, nevertheless, one of the most beautiful and elegant of Parrots. The green suit with which it is invested is subject to an ever-varying play of colour, and the different tints which are diffused over its feathers form the most agreeable and harmonious combinations.

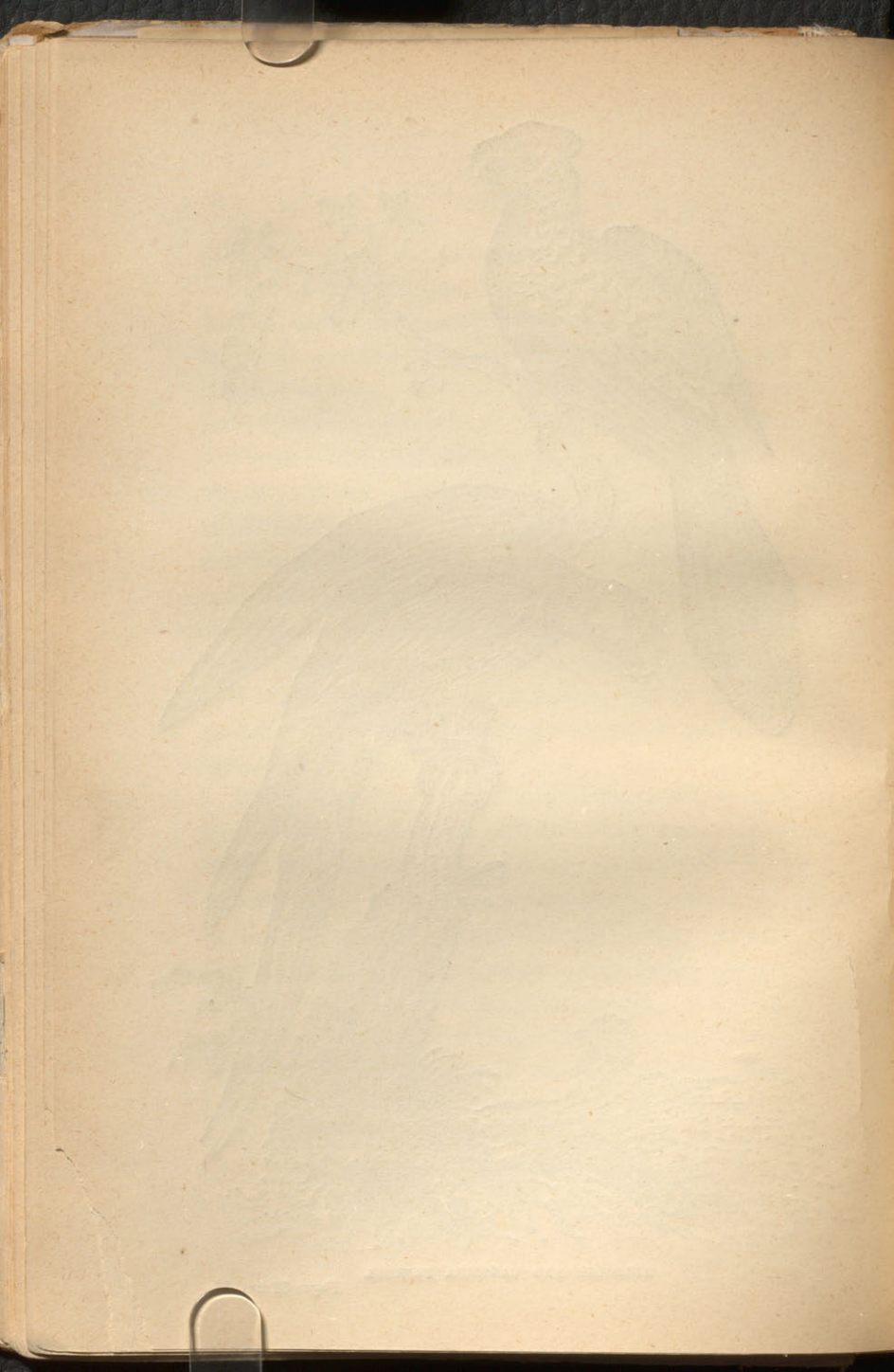
**Size.** The Carolina or Illinois Parrot is thirteen inches long, and twenty-one in extent; forehead and cheeks, orange red; beyond this, for an inch and a half down and round the neck, a rich and pure yellow; shoulder and bend of the wing also edged with rich orange-red.

**Appearance.** The general colour of the rest of the plumage is a bright yellowish silky green, with light blue reflections, lightest and most diluted with yellow below; greater wing coverts and roots of the primaries, yellow, slightly tinged with green; interior webs of the primaries, deep dusky purple, almost black, exterior ones bluish green; tail, long, cuneiform, consisting of twelve feathers, the exterior one only half the length, the others increasing to the middle ones, which are streaked along the middle with light blue; shafts of all the larger feathers and of most part of the green plumage, black; knees



SPLendid AND CAROLINA PARROTS.

Pages 32 and 37.





and vent, orange yellow; feet, a pale whitish flesh colour; claws, black; bill, white, or slightly tinged with pale cream; iris of the eye, hazel; round the eye is a small space without feathers, covered with a whitish skin; nostrils placed in an elevated membrane at the base of the bill, and covered with feathers; chin, wholly bare of feathers, but concealed by those descending on each side; from each side of the palate hangs a lobe or skin of a blackish colour; tongue, thick and fleshy; inside of the upper mandible near the point, grooved exactly like a file that it may hold with more security.

According to Audubon, the plumage is compact and imbricated on the back, blended on the head, neck, and under parts; the quills are long, the second and third quills longest; the body is elongated; the feet, short and robust; the tarsus, scaly all round; the bill, along the ridge, measures one and one-twelfth of an inch; the gap, measured from the tip of the lower mandible, one half inch; the tarsus, five-sixths; the middle toe, one and one quarter of an inch.

**The Female.** The female differs very little in her colours and markings from the male. After examining numerous specimens, the following appear to be the principal differences. The yellow on the neck of the female does not descend quite so far; the interior veins of the primaries are brownish, instead of black,

and the orange-red on the bend and edges of the wing is considerably narrower ; in other respects the colours and markings are nearly the same.

**The young birds** of the preceding, of both sexes, are generally destitute of the yellow on the head and neck until about the beginning or middle of March, having those parts wholly green, except the front and cheeks, which are orange-red in them as in the full-grown bird. Towards the middle of March the yellow begins to appear in detached feathers, interspersed among the green, varying in different individuals.

Of one hundred and sixty-eight kinds of Parrots enumerated by European writers as inhabiting the various regions of the globe, this is the only species found native within the territory of the United States.

Audubon states that when wounded and laid hold of, the Parrakeet opens its bill, turns its head to seize and bite, and, if it succeed, is capable of inflicting a severe wound ; but, when wild, is easily tamed by being immersed in water, and eats as soon as it is placed in confinement. On the ground these birds walk slowly and awkwardly, as if their tail incommoded them.

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## THE SPLENDID PARROT

(*Psittacus Gloriosus*).

THIS beautiful bird exceeds most of its congeners in the splendour and elegant contrast of its colours. In the *Régne Animal*, it is ranked among the Macaw Parrakeets. It is a native of New Holland, and its size is about equal to that of the common Ring-Parrakeet.

The head, back, breast, abdomen, crissum (or vent), and tail coverts, are of a beautiful sanguine red, which is darkest on the back, and somewhat paler on the lower parts. The back feathers, from the auchenium (or part below the nape), to the commencement of the tail coverts, are black, being broadly margined with red; the gula, the smaller wing coverts, middle wing coverts, the lateral tail feathers, and upper half of the primary quills, are of a shining, vivid cobalt blue, which becomes deeper towards the middle, and is slightly tinged with green in certain lights, the lower half of the the latter wing of a deep clove-brown; the majores, or greater wing coverts, and the intermediate tail feathers, are of a vivid leek-green; the exterior feather of the majores is of a dull brown, as well as the legs and feet; above the axillæ (or armpits) the black colour of the back forms on each side a transverse spot, with sharpened extremities; the tail is long and

cuneiform towards the tip; the bill is rather small, not much hooked, and of a pale umber brown.

The *female* is much less brilliant in the colour of her plumage than the male.

This is nearly allied to Pennant's Parrot, but differing from it, in the tail being much shorter, and in other particulars mentioned in the description; they are, however, frequently confounded.

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### THE GROUND PARROT

(*Psittacus Formosus*).

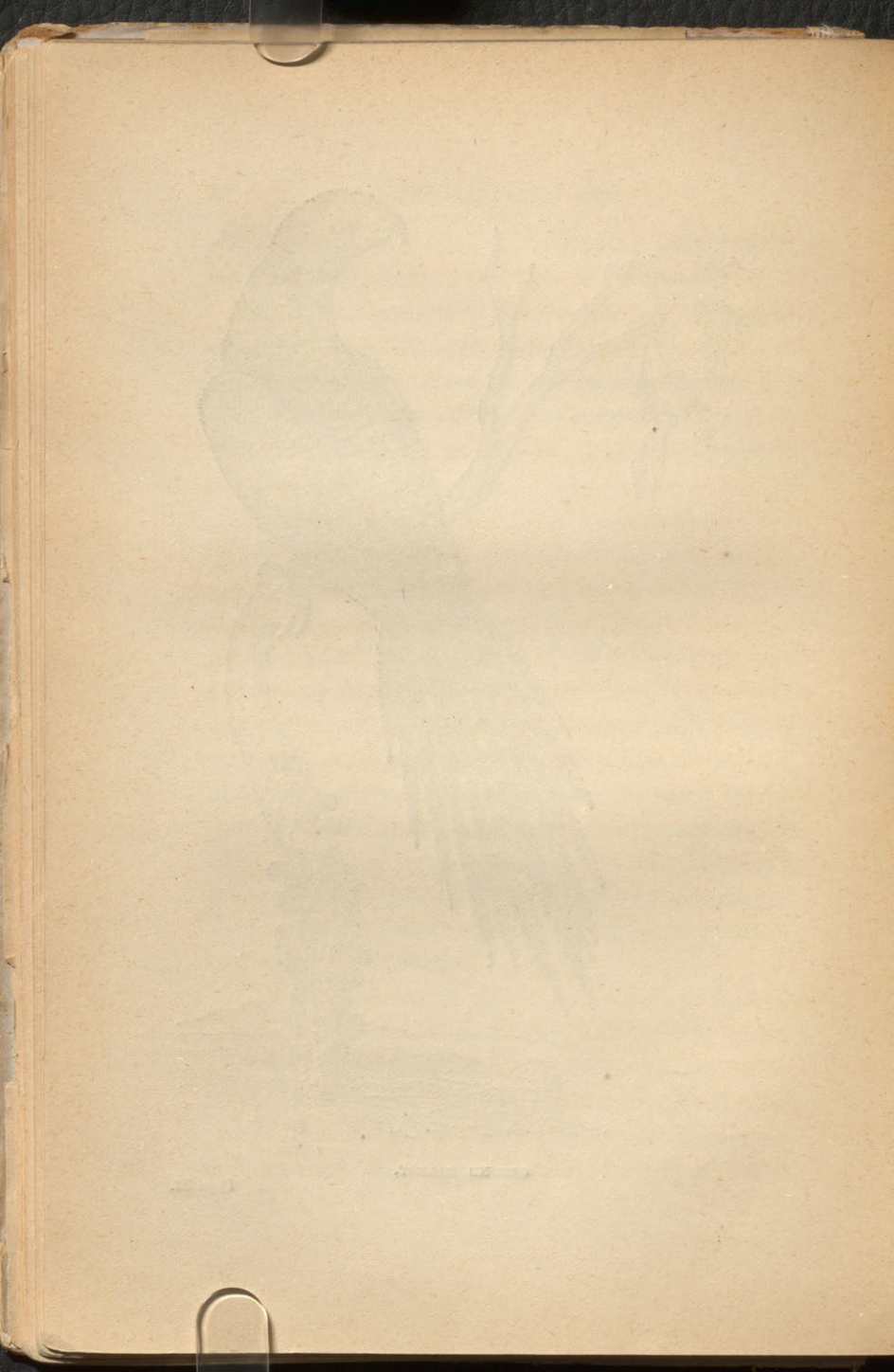
ALTHOUGH with little variety of colour, this bird is certainly one of great beauty. Its size is about that of a Turtle Dove; and is called the Ground Parrot from the circumstance that it very rarely perches on trees, being usually found on the ground. It haunts sedgy and rushy places, where it may be seen running along in the manner of a rail, in the low meadow lands of New Holland.

These birds measure eleven inches and a half in length, and their claws are long, like those of larks.

The whole upper part of the bird is of a splendid green, banded with black and yellow; beneath it is yellow, with numerous dark waved bands; the crown and nape are streaked; and the forehead of a fine



GROUND PARROT.



orange; the two middle tail feathers are of a green like the upper parts, and the lateral feathers are cuneiform, of a rich yellow; the whole tail feathers are ornamented with equidistant arrow-shaped black bands.

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### THE BLUE AND YELLOW MACAW

(*Psittacus Ararauna*).

THE colours of this bird are remarkably distinct. The whole upper parts, from the base of the upper mandible to the extremity of the tail, including the sides of the head and the upper surface of the wings, are of a bright cobalt blue, with a slight tinge of green, which is more decided on the fore part of the head; the under parts, from the gula, or throat, downwards, are of a deep chrome yellow, inclining to orange; the throat is of a dusky black; the naked cheeks are of a pale roseate hue, and are marked by three or more transverse lines of minute blackish feathers. In the *female* the colours are more vivid than in her mate, and the tail is also a little longer in proportion to the size of her body, which is a trifle less than that of the male.

This is a native of the tropical regions of America where the other species of the group of which it is a

member are chiefly found. Their notes are very similar to those of the other species; but by those who are accustomed to hear their utterance, the *arra* of the Blue and Yellow Macaw, from its less distinct articulation, can at once be distinguished.

These birds are quite at their ease in a domesticated condition, and have bred in France and Great Britain.

**Food.**—In common with its tribe, this species, in its native woods, lives chiefly upon fruits and seeds; and they invariably prefer such as are provided with a hard and shelly covering; these they crack with much dexterity, carefully rejecting the outer coat, and swallowing only the internal nut.

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### THE ROSE-CRESTED COCKATOO

(*Psittacus Moluccensis*).

THIS lively bird is not remarkable for its intelligence, but is one of the most noisy of its tribe, and is particularly fond of assuming a variety of antic gestures.

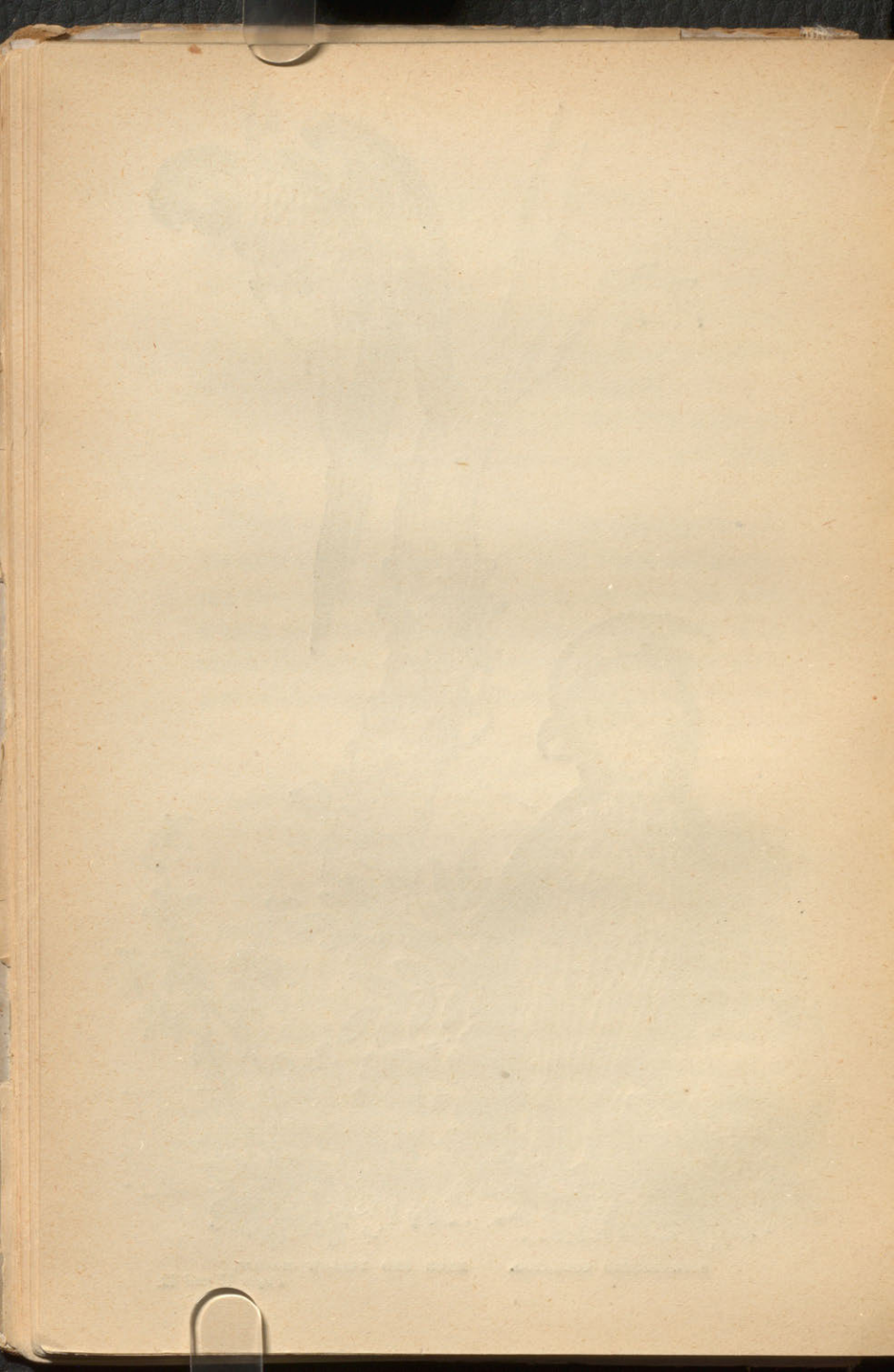
The Rose-crested Cockatoo belongs to the genus *Plyctolophus* of Vieillot, the species of which naturally arrange themselves in two sub-divisions: in the first the crest assumes a rounded form, and falls backwards over the neck, when the bird is quiescent;





ROSE-CRESTED COCKATOO.

BLUE AND YELLOW MACAW.  
*Pages 41 and 42.*



while in the second sub-division it is lengthened into a point, which is folded together, and is curved upwards. To the former of these this species belongs. It is a native of Sumatra and the Moluccas.

Its whole plumage is *white*, with an occasional tinge of pale rose colour. The crest is formed of feathers of a bright orange red underneath; the upper side, with the two middle feathers, carnation, and the others white; the inferior wing and tail coverts have a tinge of saffron yellow; but we have seen some with those parts of a straw yellow; the bill is of a bluish black, and the legs and feet of a leaden gray.

The length of this bird varies from sixteen to eighteen inches.

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### THE BLACK COCKATOO

(*Psittacus Aterimus*).

IN a state of captivity the Black Cockatoo is a mild and familiar bird; it feeds upon bread and various kinds of seeds. When approached it raises a cry which may be compared to a hoarse croaking. This cry appears to emanate from the lower part of the larynx, for there is no perceptible motion in the tongue to indicate its proceeding from that organ. Its beak is hermetically shut when not in action.

It is distinguished from all the other birds of the family of which it is a member by the form of its tongue, which M. Levaillant very aptly compares to the trunk of an elephant.

Like all Parrots they crack, without difficulty walnuts, nuts, and all kinds of fruit-stones; but when they have detached the kernel they do not, like their congeners, crush and swallow them in fragments; the entry of their œsophagus (or gullet) would, however, permit them to do so, for this opening is large enough to receive the entire kernel.

The whole body, head, crest, wings, tail, and feet of this species are of a uniform grayish black, subject to change from the play of light. The naked space round the eyes is of a rose colour, and the irides deep scarlet, approaching to crimson. The crest consists of long pendulous feathers, disposed in various directions; the bill is intensely black.

The Black Cockatoo measures about twenty-two inches from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail. It is a native of the East Indies.

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#### THE BATTLEDORE-TAILED PARROT

(*Psittacus Discurus*).

THE crown of the head and nape of the neck of a vivid light blue; the back, green; the cheeks,



BLACK COCKATOO.

BATTLEDORE-TAILED PARROT.



throat, and whole neck, and under parts of the body, of a yellowish green; the back, rump, the upper wing coverts of a beautiful green; the remiges, or quill feathers of the wings, the same colour on the outside, and blackish on the underside; the lower part of a black and bluish white; the intermediate rectrices, green; the lateral tail feathers blue externally, blackish internally, and all of a clear blue above; the two intermediate feathers terminated by a long shaft of two inches, whose end presents a battledore-shaped discus, composed of blue feathers; the bill is of a cream white in the dead bird, and the feet are brown. The total length of the bird is nine inches and a half to the extremity of the shaft, and eight to the end of the lateral feathers, which are of equal length. It inhabits New Holland.

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## THE ROSEATE COCKATOO

(*Cackatto Rosea*).

THE Roseate Cockatoo has its crest, the whole head, neck, and under part of the body of a fine rose colour; the upper part is of a beautiful gray, deeper on the wings and tail; the bill is white in the dead individual, and the feet are brown. Its total length is twelve inches.

## THE DEEP BLUE MACAW

*(Anodorhynchus Maximiliani).*

THIS beautiful bird is one of the rarest of its tribe. Its claim to generic distinction would seem to depend on the excessive length and powerful curvature of its claws and upper mandible, and on the slight development of the tooth-like process of the latter. Its colour throughout is of a deep and brilliant blue; the beak, legs, and claws, are black; and the cere and naked circle round the eyes are of a bright yellow. Our specimen measures two feet four inches from the top of the head to the extremity of the tail, and the expansion of the wings is four feet. The length of the upper mandible is five inches, and that of the lower two.

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## THE BLUE-TIPPED LORY

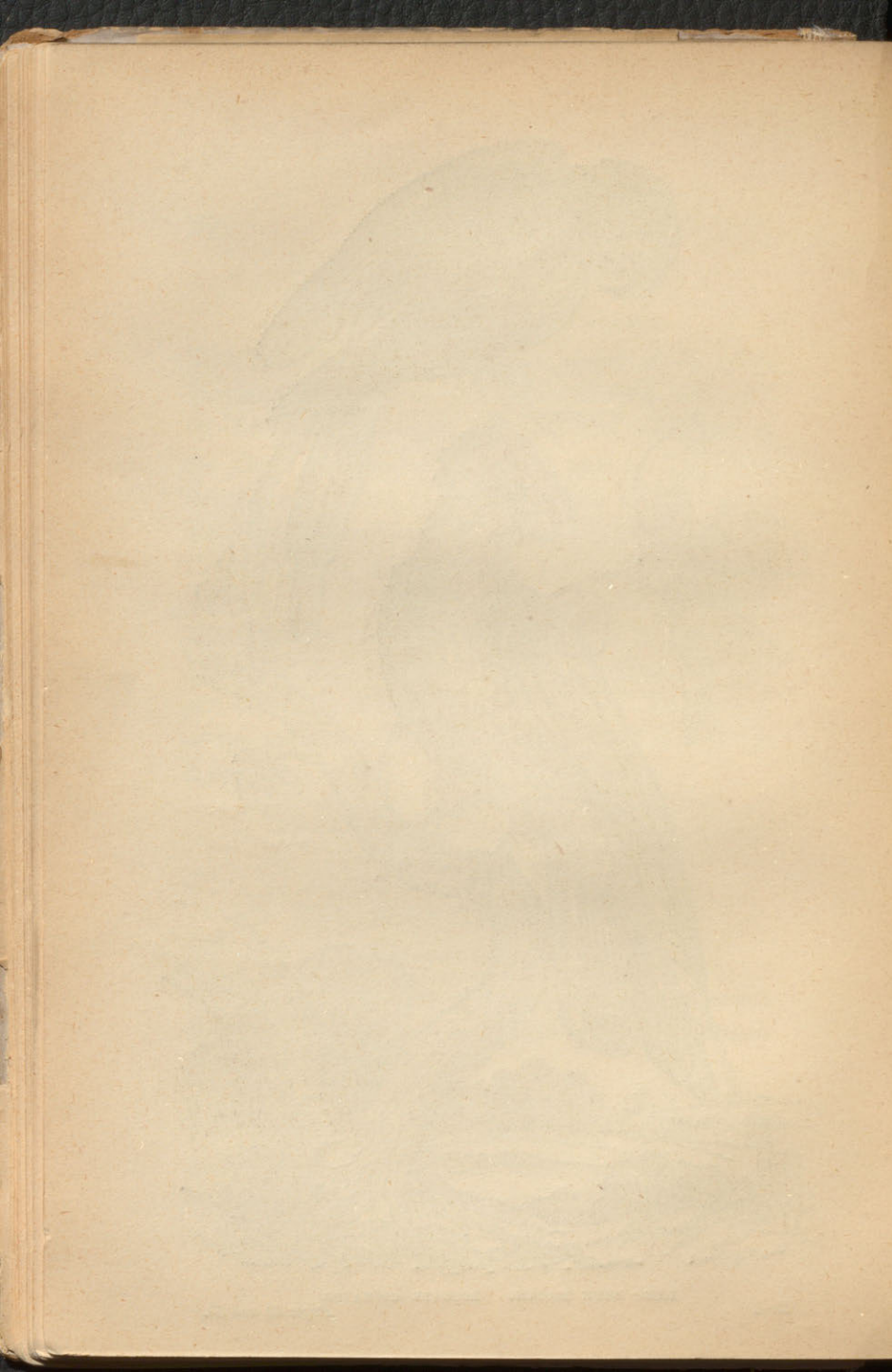
*(Psittacus Cœruleatus).*

THIS most elegant species is the size of a small domestic Pigeon, and is a native of the Molucca Islands.

The whole of the upper and under parts of this Parrot are of a deep, rich, and shining crimson; the scapulars are tipped with blue; the coverts and secondary quills with black; the tail is short,







slightly graduated, and of a rich chocolate brown, changing to a bluish tinge by the play of light ; the legs and feet are black, there are usually two spots of deep blue ; the bill is of a cinnamon colour.

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## PENNANT'S PARRAKEET

(*Psittacus Pennanti*).

THIS magnificent Parrot, by its elegant form, and gorgeous and resplendent plumage, is entitled to be ranked as one of the most valuable of its kind, not only by naturalists, but also by amateurs.

The whole body, from the crown of the head as far as the tail coverts above, and the crissum, or vent, beneath, is of a deep and brilliant crimson ; and the smaller wing coverts are of the same colour ; the chin is violet, changing into blue by the reflection of light ; the space from the rump to the middle of the back, and the upper wing coverts, are black, broadly edged with crimson, which is not so bright as that of the head, and giving those parts the appearance of being covered with large scales ; the scapulars, or shoulders, are of an intense velvet black ; the primary quill feathers are of a deep violet at their base, and of a reddish black beneath, bordered with grayish white : this border is of a dirty violet in the lesser quills. When the wings are open, the smaller feathers—that is,

those nearest the body—are of a clear lilac ; a few of the greater wing coverts are bright yellow on one side. The upper side of the rectrices of the tail is of a deep violet ; each of the feathers being divided by a black shaft, the sides of which have a slight reflection of a bronzed colour ; the three longest rectrices are of a violet red beneath ; the middle sized and small ones are of a velvet violet at their base, terminated by a grayish white at the tips ; the lower covering of the rectrices is of a fine black ; among the larger ones, some have a reflection of blue at their base ; others terminate in a clear blue, fringed with white ; and as for the middle-sized and smaller ones, they are ultramarine blue at their termination, fringed with white at the tips only. The feet are of a gray black ; as also the upper mandible of the bill, at its base ; from the middle to the point it is of a citron yellow, inclining to pink.

The length of this Parrakeet is fifteen inches ; it inhabits New Holland.

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#### THE NONPAREIL PARRAKEET

(*Psittacus Eximius*).

THE Nonpareil Parrakeet is middle-sized and finely shaped, having an elegant form, its beak small, and its tail the same length as the body.

The crown of the head, occiput, cheeks, and throat



BLUE-TIPPED LORY.

PENNANT'S PARRAKEET.

Pages 50 and 58.



are of a bright scarlet, and the chin white; the breast is of the same red as the throat, but descending to the middle of the body, where it terminates in a point. This colour, though predominating, is mixed with yellow; some of the red feathers are terminated by a little black point. The lower covering of the tail, near the tail coverts, is also of the same red. The under part of the body, from the breast to the lower part of the abdomen, is of a fine jonquil yellow, with a deep red spot in the middle, and from thence takes a greenish shade as it approaches the tail coverts, and the lower part of the sides on the abdomen; the tail coverts and crissum are green.

**The feathers** behind the neck, those on the upper part of the back, the scapulars, and the two last feathers of the wing next the back, are of a velvet black, with a border of golden yellow, which skirts the contour, and detaches them in an agreeable manner from each other. The lesser wing coverts are of a rich violet; those which are near the scapulars, and are hid by them, are black, with a yellow border; the greater wing coverts in front are of a violet blue. The great primary feathers of the wings are of a bright blue on their outer margin, and of a glossy black within, as well as on the under side, and the secondaries are of a mixed green and blue on their exterior.

**The tail** is imbricated ; the first four external rectrices are of a delicate lilac, which always appear white towards the fronts and edges, and outwardly of a fine pale azure blue ; the intermediate tail feathers are of a gay green ; the whole of them have black down, both interiorly and exteriorly, in the part which is hidden by the red coverts above the tail. The lilac colour of the lateral tail feathers is liable to different gradations, depending on the play of light, so as to appear almost white in one position, whilst in another it seems of the brightest azure blue. The legs are greenish, mixed with gray, and the claws gray. The beak is bluish-gray ; the ophthalmic region is red, and the eye hazel.

**The tongue** of this species is terminated in a brush. It is probable that this formation of the tongue has some influence over the voice of the bird, whose cry resembles a piercing whistle, but without harshness. It is said not to be very susceptible of education.

**The food** of this species is berries and fruits, after having torn them to bits ; also almonds, grains, and pippins, which they despoil of their outer coating before swallowing them. While in a free condition they abstain from all animal food, but in captivity become omnivorous.

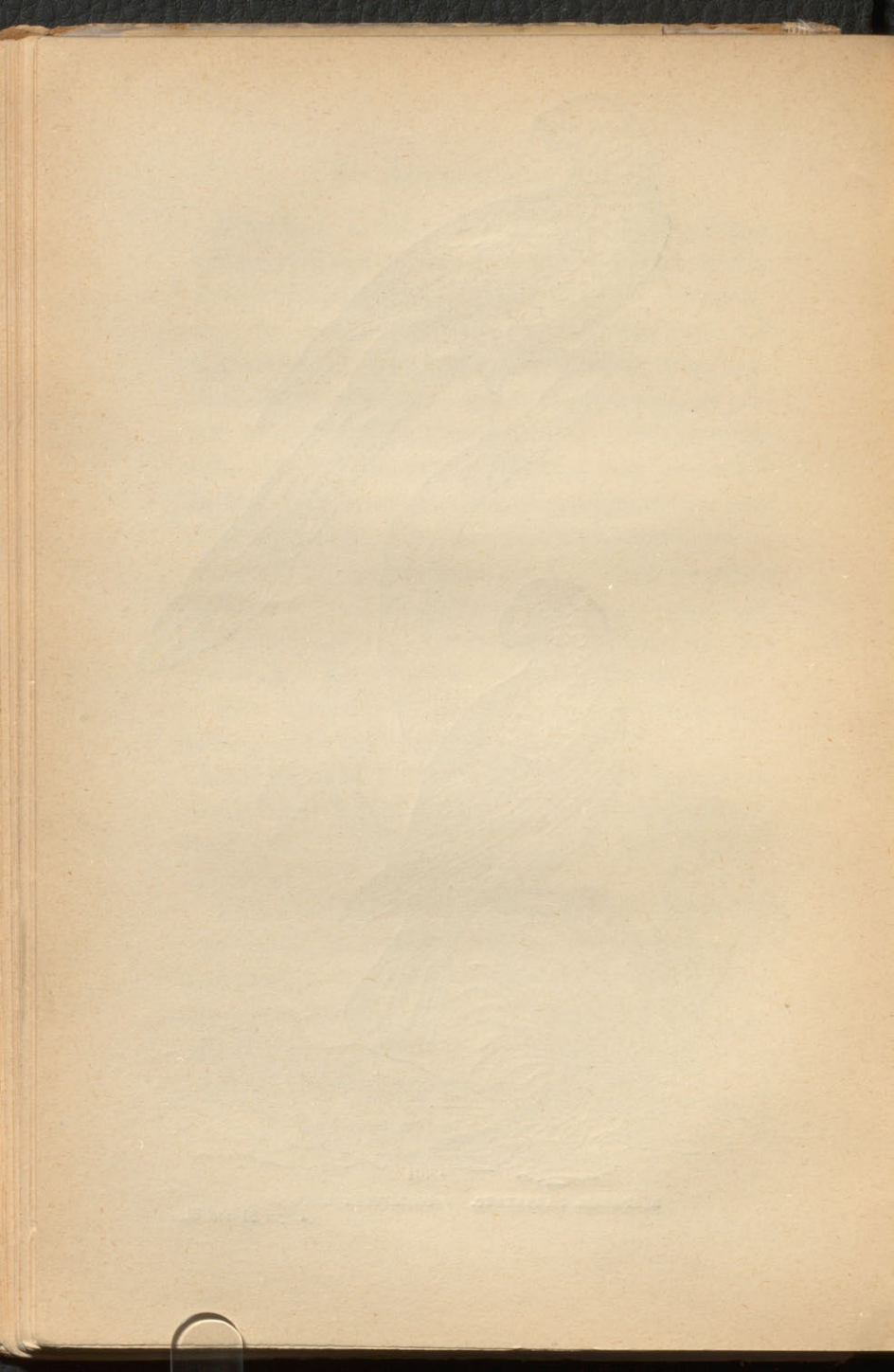




NONPAREIL PARRAKEET.

PHILIPPINE LORY.

*Pages 54 and 61.*



## THE PHILIPPINE LORY

*(Psittacus Melanotus).*

THIS pretty bird is a native of the Philippine Islands, and is remarkable for the gentleness of its manners in a state of captivity. It is somewhat smaller than a turtle dove, usually measuring about ten inches in length.

The crown of the head is of a deep violet black ; the collum is scarlet ; the back as far as the interscapulum, the breast and abdomen as far as the point of the crissum, are of a deep Antwerp blue ; from the interscapulum to nearly the point of the tail a fine scarlet colour, and the wings and tip of the tail are green ; the second last of the secondary wing feathers is of an orange yellow, and the external of the majores is scarlet ; the legs and feet are black, the bill crimson, and the cere and circle round the eye orange yellow.

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THE ROSE-RINGED PARRAKEET*(Psittacus Torquatus).*

THE Rose-ringed Parrakeet is of the most vivid green, tinged with yellow ; the base of the wings is provided with a purplish red patch ; it has a collar round its neck of a vivid rose colour.

The female of this species resembles the young bird, being destitute of the rose ring, which does not make its appearance until the bird is in its third year. The full-grown bird is from eighteen to twenty inches.

This is the bird which was known in early times in Britain by the name of Popinjay. In the reign of King Henry V. a singular poem was written by Skelton under the title of *Speak Parrot*, in which the essential characters of this species were well described.

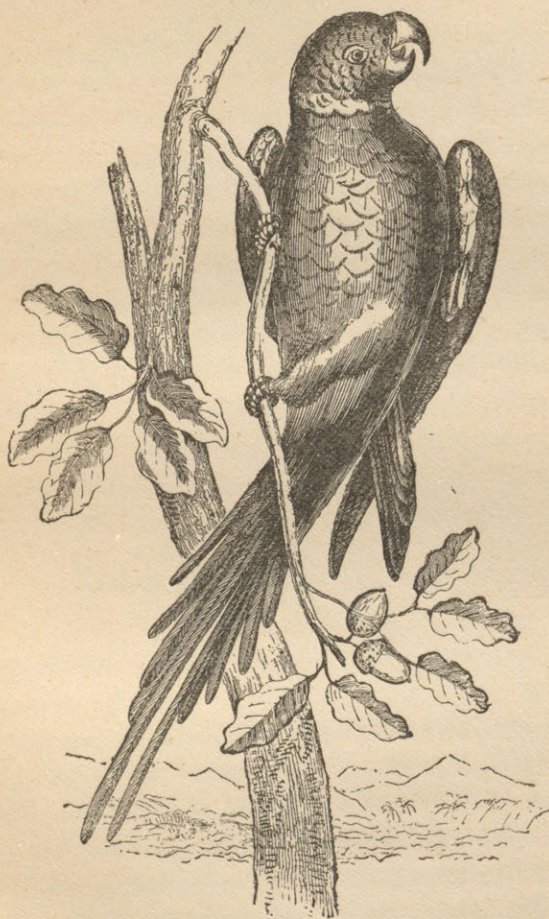
In a state of domestication it is extremely affectionate, and easily acquires a number of words or even sentences, which it utters with much distinctness.

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### THE HYACINTHINE MACAW

(*Psittacus Hyacinthinus*).

THE whole plumage of this species is of a fine hyacinthine blue, lighter on the head and neck, changing to sea-green on the upper parts, and of the colour of polished steel, which is the case also with the wings and tail: the neck, the orbits, and gula are naked, and of a deep yellow colour; the edge of the eyelid, and the iris, have the shade of rosemary flowers; the



ROSE-RINGED PARRAKEET.



bill and feet are of a deep black, the membrane of the bill is of a beautiful yellow, and two lines wide at the base of the upper mandible; it diminishes with the length to the angle of the mouth, from whence there extends a second straight membrane, which embraces the inferior mandible, and advances towards the eye; the cheeks are in a great measure covered with feathers, which distinguishes this Ara from its congeners. The whole length of the bird is twenty-six inches. The female is a little less than the male, and the young are of a more dull blue colour.

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### THE RED AND YELLOW MACAW

(*Psittacus Aracanga*).

ALTHOUGH inferior in size to the Red and Blue Macaw, in beauty, at least, it is equal to that species. Its general size is about two feet and a half from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail. The red of its plumage is less intense than that of the red and blue species, and the blue of its primary wing feathers is of a more vivid colour. In place of the greenish band which separates the two principal colours from each other the extremities of each of the feathers have a greenish tinge on the

lower part of the neck and upper wing coverts, while the larger wing coverts are of a light yellow tipped with bright green. The naked part of the cheeks is white and quite bare, being totally destitute of the minute lines of feathers which are an unvarying character of the Red and Blue Macaw, and the membrane does not extend over the base of the upper mandible. This part of the bill is of a dull yellowish white throughout, having a small spot of black near its base. The upper mandible, the scales of the legs, and claws are of a deep black, the white skin appearing at intervals through the scales.

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### THE TURKOSINE PARRAKEET

(*Psittacus Pulchellus*).

THE Turkosine Parrakeet may be numbered among the smallest of its tribe, measuring only six inches and a half from the crown of the head to the extremity of the tail, which is about a third of the whole.

The front of the head is of a rich cobalt blue, from hence to the crown of the head, also the neck, back, upper wing coverts, and the two intermediate tail feathers are of a rich green; the throat, breast, abdomen, and crissum are of a deep golden yellow;





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RED AND YELLOW MACAW.

HYACINTHINE MACAW.

Pages 62 and 65.



the lesser wing coverts are of a pale greenish blue ; the middle and greater coverts, and primaries cobalt blue, tipped with black ; and each wing has a bright scarlet spot on the middle wing coverts next the interscapulum. The lateral tail feathers are of a bright gamboge yellow, the three next, the central feathers on each side, having a longitudinal black streak, occupying about two-thirds of the central region of the feathers. The bill, legs, and feet are black. This species inhabits New Holland.

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#### THE RED-NAPED PARRAKEET

(*Psittacus Nuchulis*).

THE front of the head, breast, and abdomen, is of a vivid scarlet ; the bill is of a bright red, inclining to crimson ; the whole of the other parts of the plumage are of a rich and glossy green, changing in some lights to bluish green, with reflections of pink ; the irides are scarlet, and the feet greenish brown.

The Red-naped Parrakeet is about the size of a small domestic Pigeon.

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## THE GOLDEN GREEN PARRAKEET

*(Psittacus Swainsoni).*

THE plumage above is entirely green, beneath paler, and inclining more to yellow, and of a fine golden tinge; just under the lower mandible is a dark umber coloured spot, and a very narrow line of the same in front, just above the nostrils; the quills dark green, the greater ones on their outside base are blue; the spurious wings are of a rich and clear orange. The inner wing coverts are green; the inside of the quills is greenish blue, except on each side of the shafts, where there is a line of black; the tail is short and cuneated, hardly projecting an inch beyond the wings, both above and below green, the interior margin dirty yellow; the bill and legs are of a flesh colour. Total length, six inches.

## THE CAPE PARRAKEET

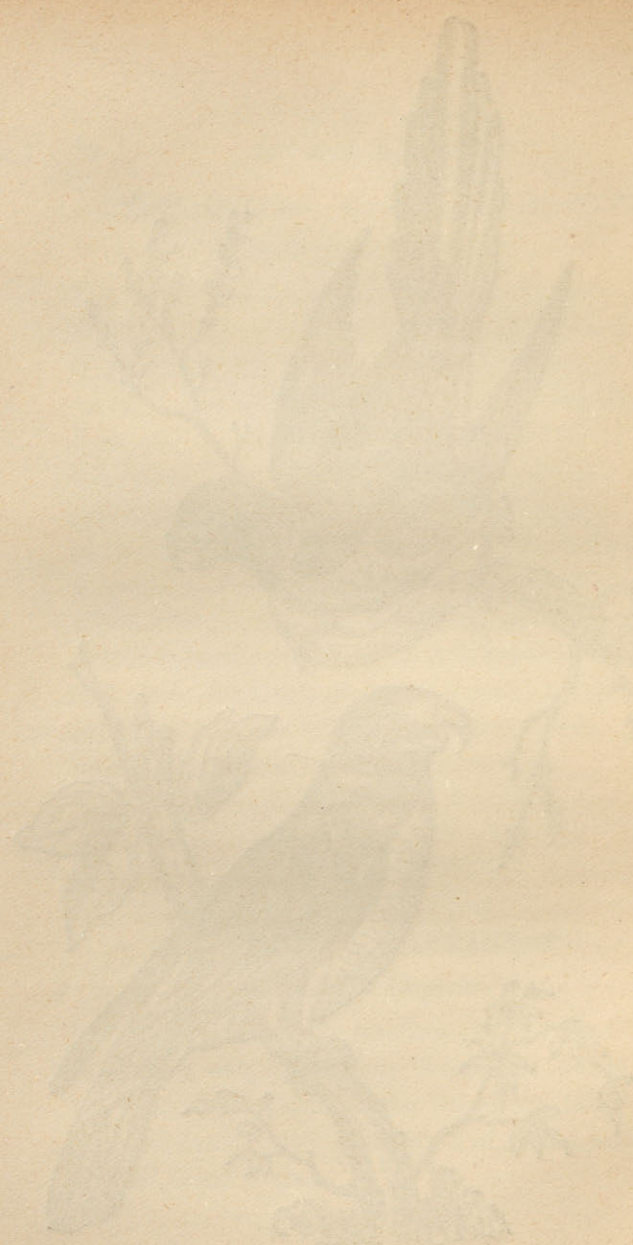
*(Psittacus Capensis).*

THIS bird is one of the smallest of the Parrot tribe, measuring only about four inches and a-half from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail. It is an inhabitant of the lower parts of Africa, near the Cape of Good Hope.



TURKOSINE PARAKEET.

RED-NAPED PARAKEET.



THE BIRD BOOKS OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURE



The tail is short, and the bill rather small in proportion to the size of the bird; the whole of the plumage is of a rich yellowish green, changing to yellow in various shades of light; the quills of the wings are of a verdigris green, changing into blue; and the under wing coverts are of an extremely deep and beautiful ultramarine blue, with a patch of the same colour extending down a considerable way on the abdomen; the bill is pale brown, and the feet of a raw umber colour.

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## THE SCALY-BREASTED PARRAKEET

(*Psittacus Squamosus*).

THE front of the forehead is verdigris-green; the crown, cheeks, and throat, of a deep brown; the nucha, auchenium, as far as the interscapulum region, the rectrices, and remiges, are all of a rich yellow green, as also the intermediate tail feathers, the hypochondria, the tibial and tarsal feathers, the crissum, and under tail coverts; the interscapulum, lateral tail feathers, and epigastrium, are of a scarlet lake colour; the gula is white, the feathers of which are centred with black, and edged with pink, giving them a scaly appearance; the jugulum is of a rich gamboge yellow, and changing into green as

it descends; the greater wing coverts and quills are of a rich cobalt blue; the bill and feet are of a dull black; the flexure of the wing is rich crimson.

This elegant species is a native of Surinam.

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#### THE TABUAN PARRAKEET

(*Psittacus Tabuensis*).

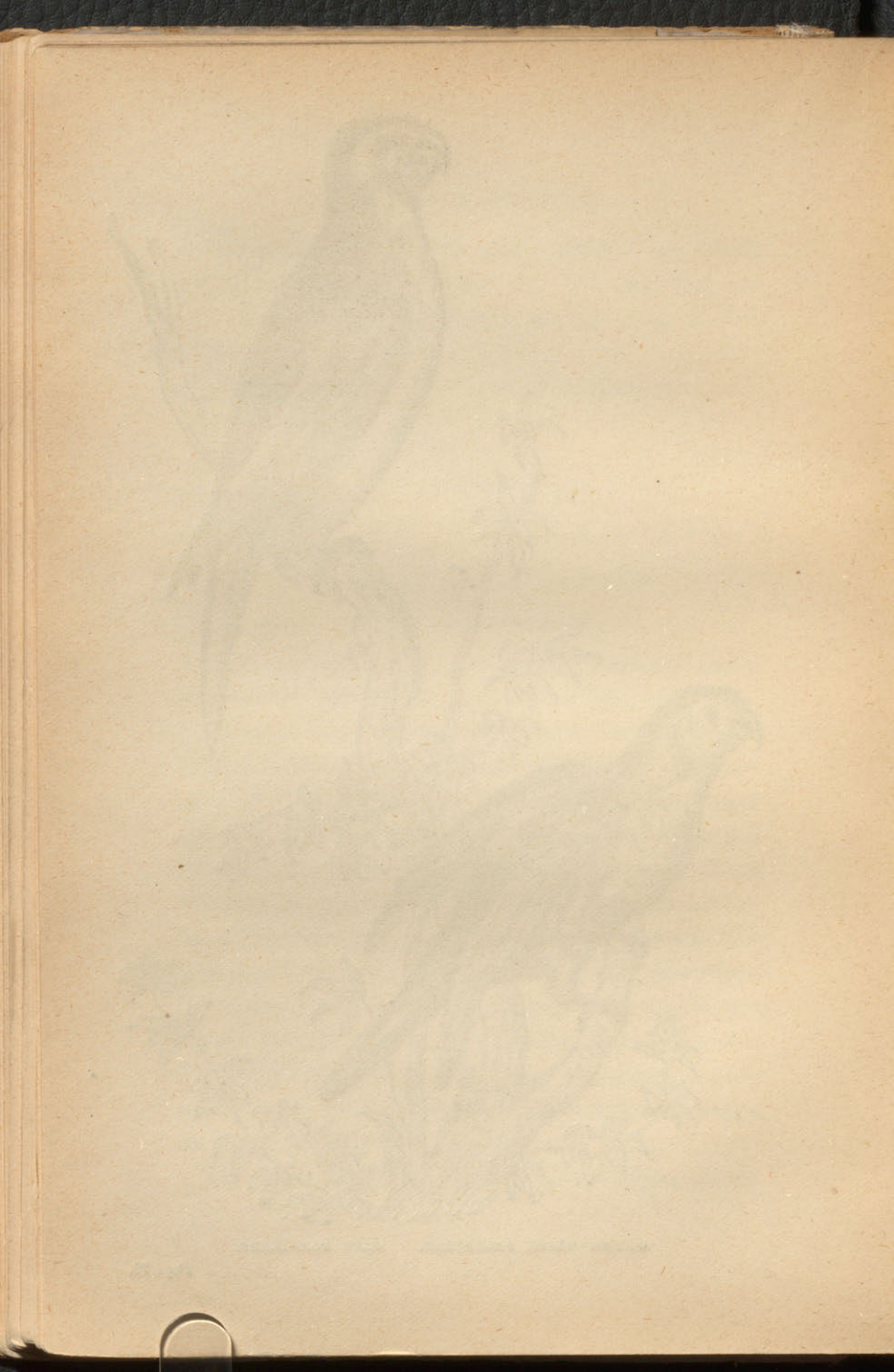
THE head, neck, breast, abdomen, crissum, and under tail coverts are of a bright purplish red; the feathers on the abdomen and flanks merely tipped with this colour, which produces a banded appearance of blackish green; the whole of the upper parts, with the exception of the quills and outer tail feathers, are bright emerald green, varying in shade and intensity according to the light; the feathers of the tergum are tipped with the same colour as the head and neck; the wings are broad and powerful; the under sides and under webs of the quills are black; the outer webs greatly emarginated and of a high-toned purplish azure blue, changing to pale ultramarine blue at the edges; the spurious wings on the upper side are of a deep azure blue.

The tail is broad and expansive, containing twelve





GOLDEN GREEN PARRAKEET. CAPE PARRAKEET.



feathers; the two central ones are of a dull emerald green, all the others are of a rich azure blue, tinged at the edges with pale ultramarine blue and emerald green; the under side of all the feathers is black; the feet and legs of this species are formed for both climbing and walking, and are of a dark gray colour; the bill is thick, and the under mandible in particular very strong; the total length of the bird is from fourteen to sixteen inches.

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### THE RED AND BLUE MACAW

(*Psittacus Macao*).

THE MACAWS hold a distinguished rank among the splendid family of which they are members. They are remarkable for their large size as well as for the beauty and variety of their colours. A distinguishing characteristic is their cheeks being naked, with only a few scattered feathers. Their upper mandible is much longer than the under one, has a great curvature, and is provided with a notch on each side, which corresponds with the notch in the lower mandible; the tail is longer than the rest of the body, and graduated. They are very mild and docile in their disposition, on which account they are greatly

esteemed ; but they are by no means famous for their imitative powers, nor for their intelligence.

Macaws live entirely on vegetable diet, and prefer such seeds and nuts as are enveloped in a leatherish rind. They live to a great age, but require considerable attention in Britain to prevent the effects of our cold climate on their constitutions. This is more especially the case when they are newly imported ; but in a few years they become pretty well inured to the cold of our climate.

The Red and Blue Macaw is one of the largest and most beautiful of its group, measuring from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail nearly three feet, the tail itself being nearly two feet in length when in perfect condition. Its general plumage is of a deep-toned and brilliant red. A broad band of verdigris-green separates the intermediate wing coverts, and behind the shoulders, from the deep violet blue of the large quill feathers of the wings.

The tail is generally blue at the base, brownish crimson in the middle, and blue at the extremity of the feathers, and of a blood-red colour underneath ; but all these colours vary, both in intensity and extent. The cheeks and cere are white, the latter traversed by three or four rows of transverse crimson feathers. The lower mandible and the base of the upper one are of a blackish horn colour, the middle of the latter being of a dirty yellowish white,



SCALY-BREADED PARRAKEET.

TABUAN PARRAKEET.

Pages 73 and 74.



and of a dusky hue at the point. The claws are the same colour as the beak, as are also the scales which cover the legs and toes. This bird inhabits Brazil and some of the West India islands.

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## THE INDIAN LORY

(*Psittacus Coccineus*).

THIS species inhabits many of the larger islands in the Indian Ocean, and is said to be very plentiful in Amboyna.

The front, nape, chin, throat, back, from the interscapulum to the tip of the tail coverts, the smaller, middle, and larger wing coverts are of a rich scarlet, the feathers of the wings being tinged with a dusky blue at their margins. The crown, cheeks, auchenium, sides, abdomen, and tail are of a deep Antwerp blue colour. The primary quill feathers are of a rich gamboge yellow. The bill is crimson, and the legs and feet are black.

The Indian Lory is subject to some variety of colour in different individuals.

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## THE VAILLANTIAN PARRAKEET

(*Psittacus Vaillantia*).

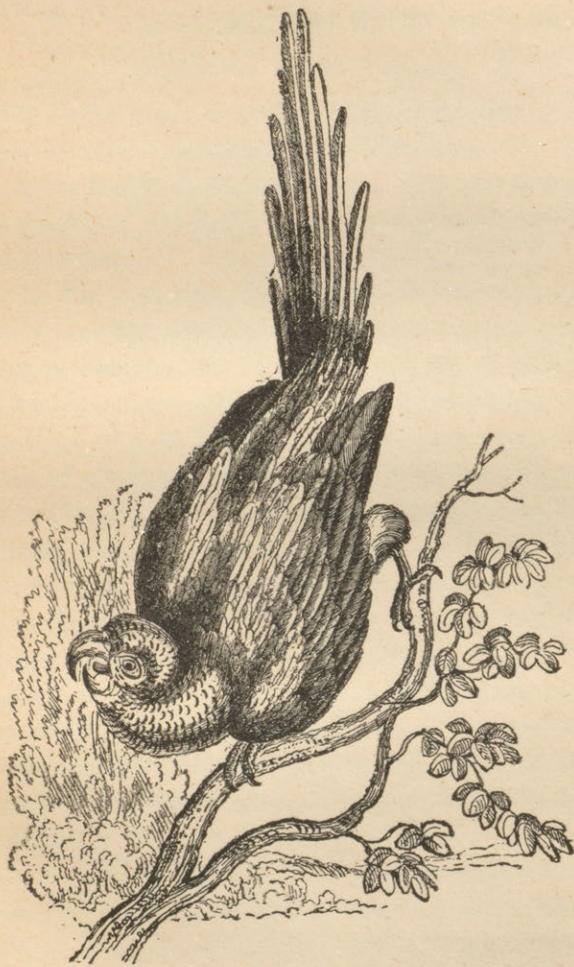
THIS most elegant species is dedicated to Levaillant, a naturalist who spent his life and fortune in the publication of a series of the most splendid books on Ornithology, and which must remain as a monument of industry and refined taste so long as the natural sciences hold a sway over the human mind.

The Vaillantian Parrakeet is five inches and a half from the crown of the head to the extremity of the tail. It inhabits the islands of the Southern Pacific Ocean. The crown of the head, the tibial feathers, extending in a circular form round the lower part of the abdomen, are of a bluish purple; the cheeks, throat, breast, abdomen, and part of the back, are of a rich and deep crimson; the auchenium, wings, and tail, with the upper and under tail coverts, are of a yellowish green; the bill, feet, and legs are yellowish brown, and the claws black.

This bird is nearly allied to the Purple-headed Parrakeet, but differing in the darker colour of the purple on the head, and in the crimson on its lower parts.

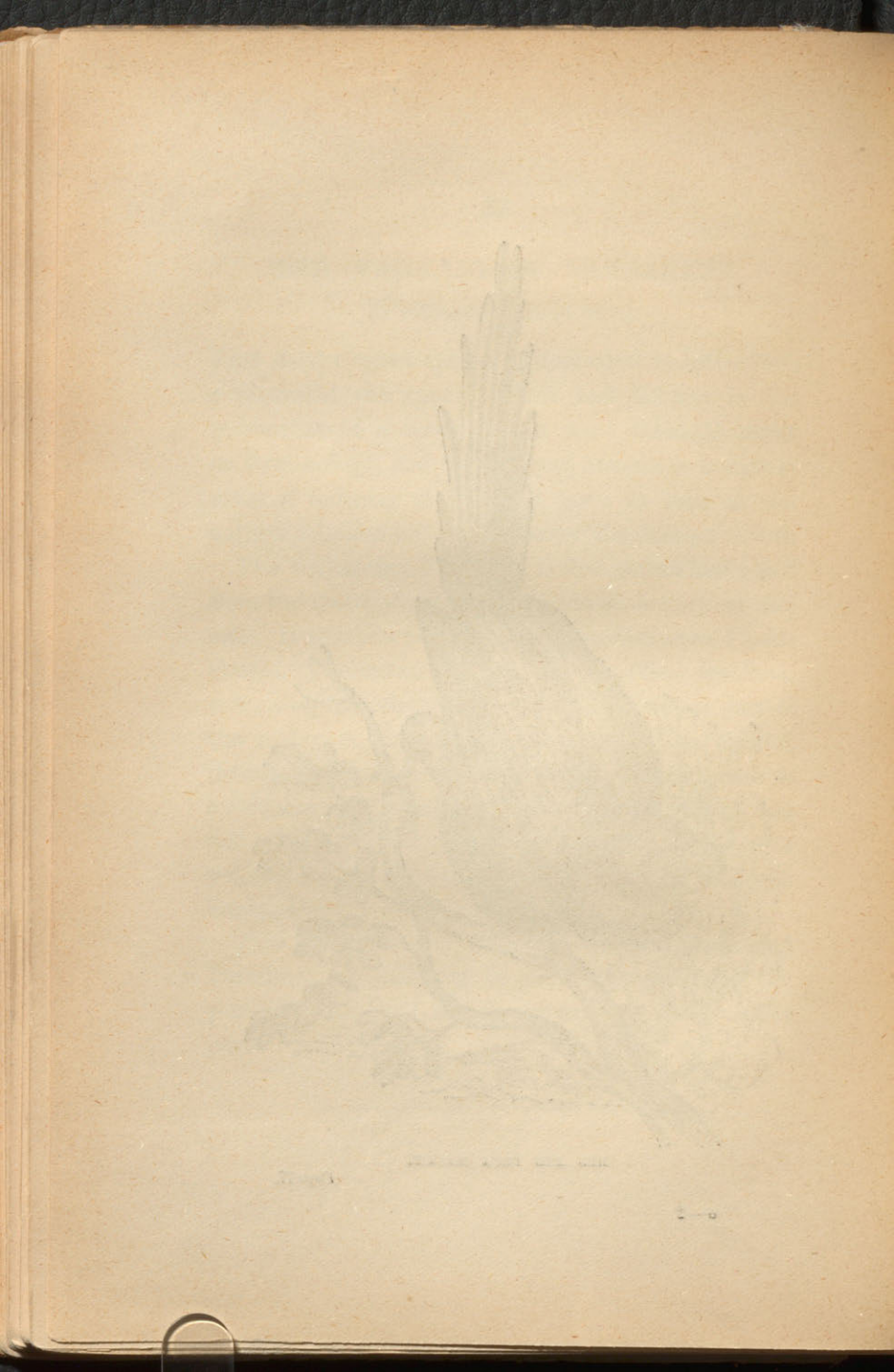
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RED AND BLUE MACAW.

Page 77.



## THE AZURE-BLUE-RUMPED PARROT

(*Psittacus Cyano-Pygius*).

THIS Parrot holds a distinguished rank among the species which inhabit the South Sea Islands.

**The Male** is of a robust form, with his tail equal in length to the body, from the crown of the head to the vent.

All the head, face, temples, cheeks, throat, breast, abdomen, and sides are of a brilliant scarlet, inclining to orange; the under tail coverts, or crissum, deep blue, the feathers of which are bordered with scarlet. The back of the neck is ornamented by a ring of glossy ultramarine blue, which separates the red of the nape from the brilliant dark green feathers which cover the lower part of the neck and back. The tail coverts and crissum are the same blue as the ring on the neck; the scapulars are of a yellowish white shade, and become of a delicate blue by the reflection of light; the upper covering of the wings and quill feathers are of the same green as the back, in the exterior feathers, but having their interiors black; the twelve feathers of the tail are of various lengths, but not so decidedly different as in many other of the Parrakeets of the same division; the inequality is less between the outer lateral feathers, and the longest intermediate feathers, which are of a bronzed green, the laterals of a bluish violet, and

the exterior ones edged with green ; the upper mandible is of a deep red, except at the point, which is black ; the region of the eyes is naked and black.

**The Female** of this Parrakeet differs so much from the male that it might be easily mistaken for a distinct species. She is less than the male bird ; her head, face, and back of her neck, are of a rich and deep green ; the throat, sides, and fore part of the neck, the breast, to the lower part of the sternum, are of a yellowish green ; like the male, her tail coverts are blue, and all the abdominal region and thighs are of the same red colour as in the male ; the under tail coverts are green, edged with red ; the scapulars, all the upper coverings, and even the upper parts of the wings, are green, but not of so dark a shade as in the male ; the under part of the wings and the interior edges of the points of their longest quill feathers are of a blackish tinge ; all the feathers of the tail are green, shaded with blue, but more decided in those of the middle than in the side ones ; the beak is blackish, as are also the feet.

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#### THE BLACK-BACKED PARRAKEET

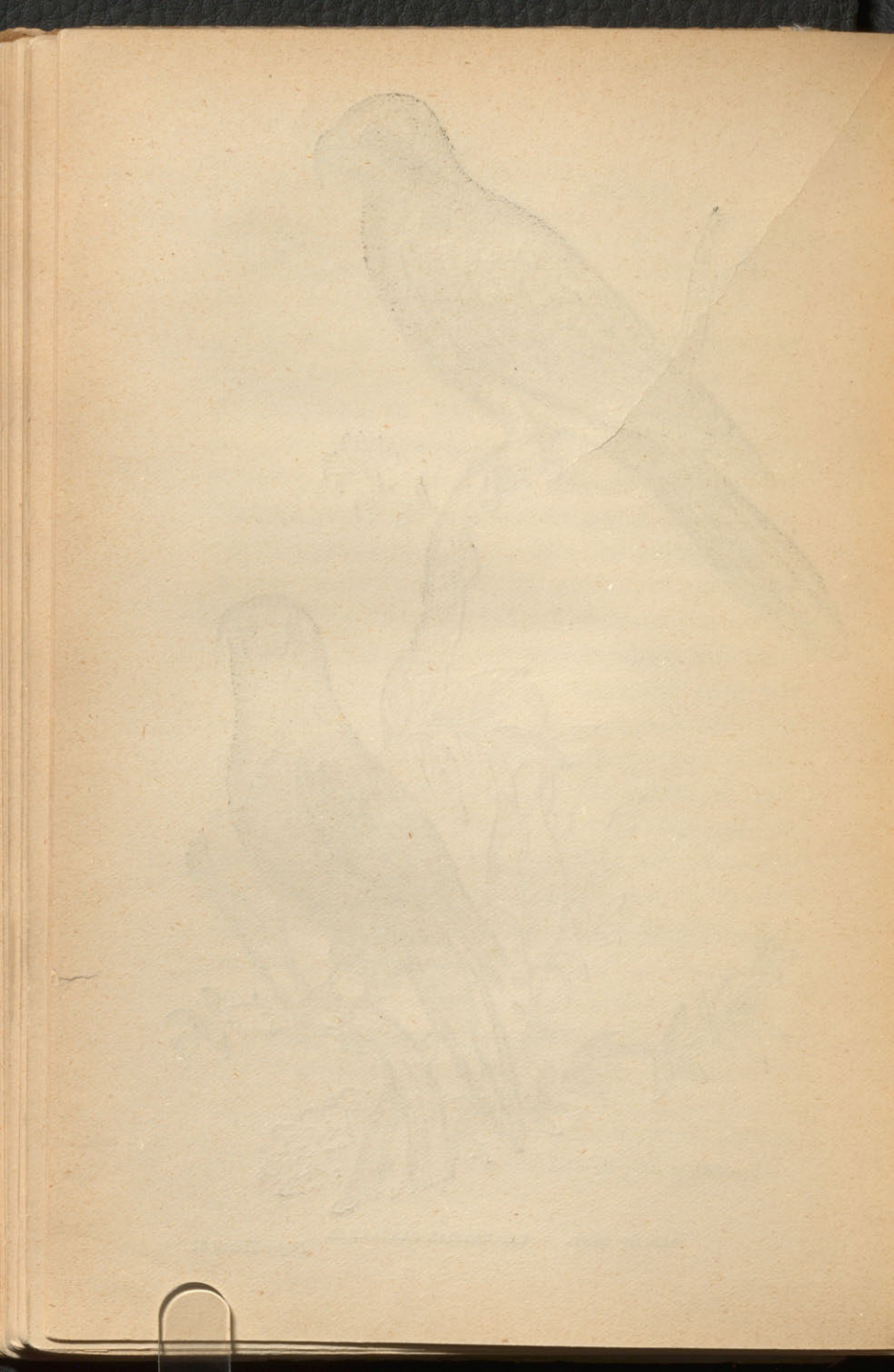
(*Psittacus Melanotus*).

**Colour.** The whole of the head, neck, throat, breast, abdomen, crissum, and tail are of a rich yel-



INDIAN LOBY.

VAILLANTIAN PARRAKEET.



lowish green, the latter tipped with yellow ; the interscapulum is black, the rump cobalt blue, changing to purple, and the upper tail coverts rich yellowish green ; the middle and secondary feathers of the wings are of a rich scarlet colour, the greater coverts of a deep olive green, and the primaries of blue green ; the bill pinkish scarlet on the sides, and yellow along the keel ; the legs and feet are black.

The plumage of the Black-backed Parrakeet is, in the highest degree, vivid and elegant in its colours ; it is a native of Australasia ; in size it is somewhat less than the Nonpareil Parrakeet.

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## THE ZONED PARROT

(*Psittacus Zonarius*).

THE whole head of the Zoned Parrot is of a deep velvet black, having a crescent-shaped collar of yellow, and a zone of the same colour invests the centre of its abdominal region ; all the rest of the plumage is of a leek green, which extends to the tail feathers, the lateral ones being of a dull lilac on their exterior edges ; the smaller and middle wing coverts are of the same green as the rest of the bird ; the lower part of the greater coverts and quills are deep black, as well as the legs and feet ; the bill is

pale raw-umber brown. It is the same size as the Tabuan Parrot, and inhabits New Holland.

Although the Zoned Parrot is not remarkable for the beauty of its plumage, it is reckoned a bird of considerable elegance of form, and is very lively and affectionate in a domesticated state.

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### THE CERAM LORY

(*Psittacus Garrulus*).

THE whole upper and under parts of this bird are of a rich scarlet, which extends along to the lesser wing coverts, and reaches to the centre of the tail, the remaining colour of which is steel gray; on the shoulders there is a large spot of rich golden yellow; the wings are wholly of deep sea-green, with the exception of the three exterior quills, which are of a reddish lilac, and the bend of the wing is of a yellowish green; the cere and naked circle round the eye are deep blue; the bill umber brown, and the feet and claws purplish brown; the feathers on the tibia, or lower parts of the leg, are green.

This richly-coloured bird inhabits the Molucca Islands, and abounds on the island of Ceram; hence its name.





AZURE-BLUE-RUMPED PARROT—MALE.



## THE PURPLE-TAILED PARRAKEET

*(Psittacus Porphyrurus).*

THE colours of this most beautiful species are of great brilliancy. It is a native of Cayenne, in South America. It is principally distinguished by all the rectrices being purple, except the two middle ones, which are green. It is one of the rarest birds of its tribe.

The whole plumage of this bird is of a rich brilliant green; the rump being of a fine Antwerp blue colour; the outer great wing coverts and tips of the whole primaries are black; it has also a patch of several black feathers on the middle of the back; the tail feathers of a deep crimson, fringed with black; the two middle feathers are green; the tail coverts are uncommonly long, and reach nearly to the point of the tail: this is a remarkable peculiarity in the species. The bill is dirty green, and the legs and feet of a dull pea-green.

## THE PURPLE-HEADED PARRAKEET

*(Psittacus Porphyrocephala).*

THIS elegant little bird is provided with a purple crest; its throat, cheeks, and chin are of a fine crimson, as well as the feathers of the tibia; the

whole other parts of the plumage are of a rich green ; the bill is citron yellow, tipped with pale rose colour ; the legs and feet are of a citron yellow. It has a patch of green on the front of its forehead close above the bill.

The Purple-headed Parrakeet is subject to a little variety as to colour ; the tibial feathers in some being green, and in others purple ; the breast also is sometimes of a dusky tinge. These are probably either sexual differences, or else may be owing to more or less advanced stages in their progress towards maturity.

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#### THE MOLUCCA PARRAKEET

(*Psittacus Hæmatodus*).

THE head is of a deep Antwerp blue ; the nape and throat, deep leek-green, as well as the feathers of the upper parts, and those of the abdomen, extending to the under tail coverts, which are yellowish towards their tips ; the breast is of a deep scarlet, all the feathers being tipped with dark blue ; the feathers of the tail are brown in the centre beneath, and edged with Indian yellow, changing by different reflections of light ; the bill is rusty brown, the legs and feet are bluish-gray, and the claws black.



AZURE-BLUE-RUMPED PARROT—FEMALE.



This species inhabits the Molucca Islands, and has frequently been confounded with the Blue Mountain Parrakeet.

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## THE GREAT-BILLED PARROT

(*Psittacus Macrorhynchos*).

THIS bird is entirely of an emerald green colour on the head, throat, breast, back, abdomen, and tail; and of a fine cobalt blue on the rump; the smaller wing coverts are black, and margined with a burnt-sienna colour; the secondary wing coverts are composed of green and yellow feathers, some of which are margined with burnt sienna, and others with yellow; the larger coverts, spurious wings, and primary quills, are deep blue, which changes to brown by the reflection of light; the bill is very large, and of a dark crimson colour; the feet are umber-brown, and the claws of a paler hue.

The Great-Billed Parrot is a native of Papua, and other southern islands; and in size is about equal to the common Amazon Parrot.

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## THE VIOLET-BLUE PARRAKEET

*(Psittacus Porphyra).*

THIS diminutive bird is one of the most elegantly formed of its tribe. Its colour is of a beautiful deep violet, except on the throat and upper part of the breast, where it is white; but in some specimens there is a slight dusky tinge; the bill and legs are reddish yellow, and the feathers on the head are elongated, so as to form a slight crest, in the same manner as the Purple-headed Parrakeet.

The tongue, unlike most others of its congeners, is long, and terminated by a sort of pencil of short white bristles. This bird is somewhat more than five inches in total length.

The Violet-blue Parrakeet is a native of the island of Otaheite.

## SWINDERN'S LOVE-BIRD

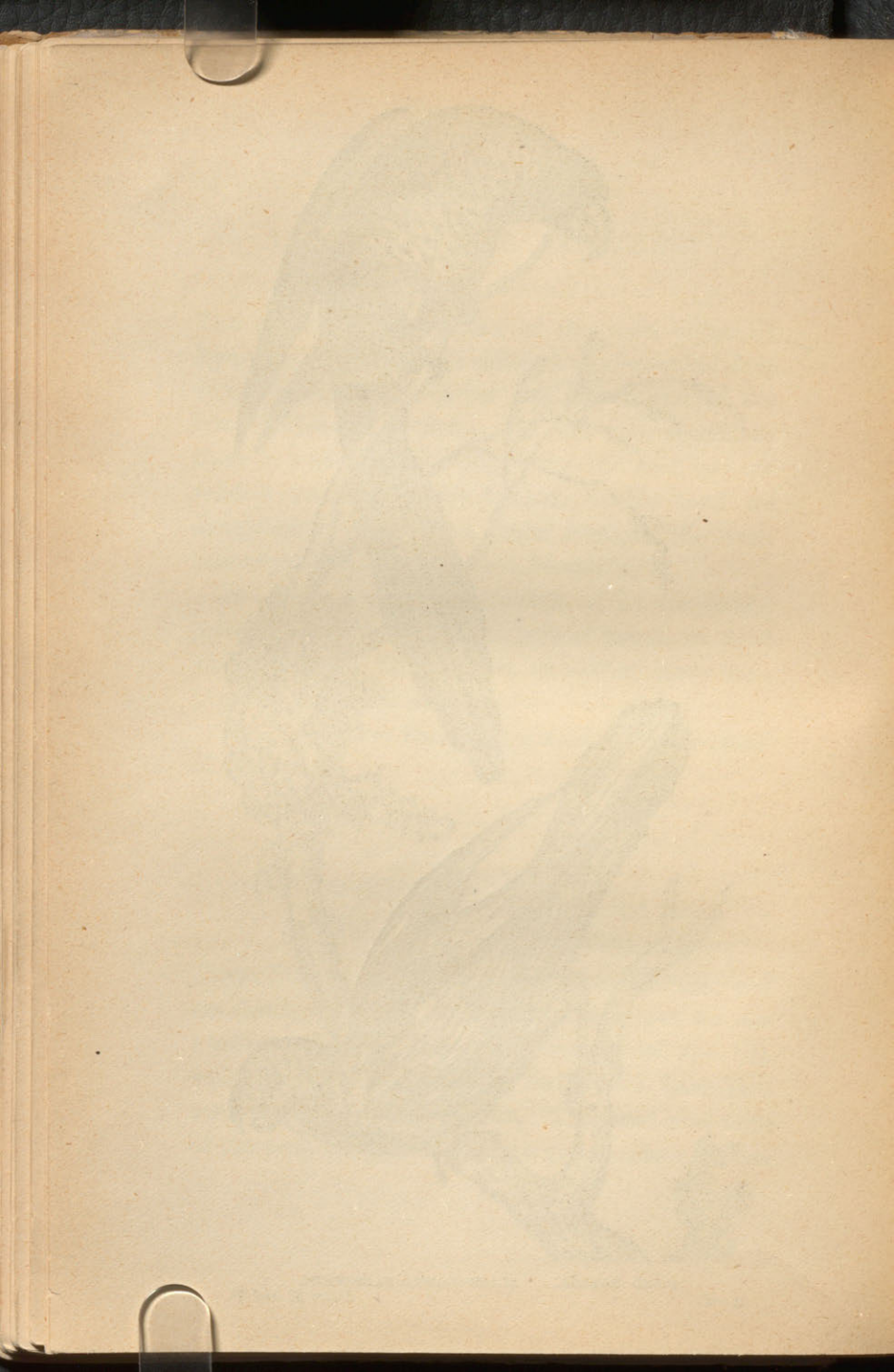
*(Psittacula Swinderniana).*

THESE little birds are natives of South Africa, and are distinguished by their remarkable love for one another. In the form and strength of the bill, which is black and strong, Swindern's Love-Bird resembles the larger parrots. The head and nape of the neck are of a bright rich green colour, as are





H-2      ZONED PARROT.      BLACK-BACKED PARRAKEET.      *Pages 86 and 83.*



also the mantle and wings; whilst the neck and breast are greenish yellow, and the lower back and upper tail-coverts are deep azure blue. As regards the tail, the two middle feathers and the tips are green, whilst the other feathers on each side have their lower half vermilion, bounded by a bar of black. The legs and toes are greyish black, and the wings are long and reach to the end of the tail when closed. Love-Birds lay their eggs in the holes of trees, on bare wood, when in their native state.

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THE ASH-COLOURED OR GREY PARROT

(*Psittacus Erythacus*).

THE GREY PARROT, which is a native of Western Africa, and largely brought over to this country by sailors, is noted for its good memory, its power of talking, and general imitative faculties. Both male and female birds have the power of talking. The colour of this parrot is ashen-grey, with the exception of the tail, which is deep scarlet. The bill, which is much hooked, is black and powerful, and the feet and toes are grey. This bird feeds on vegetables, fruits, and seeds of most kinds, and is very fond of fir-cones. Parsley and chick-weed are very injurious, and should be avoided; but bread and milk is a very good food for the Grey Parrot.

## THE PALE-HEADED BROADTAIL

*(Platycerus Palliceps).*

BROADTAILS are distinguished from other Parrots, as their name implies, by the shape of their tails, which are broad and depressed; and also by their wings, which are rounder and shorter; and their feet, which are slender and elevated, and enable them to move about with ease and agility. Their plumage is elegant and diversified; and they are birds of great activity. The Pale-headed Broadtails, like most of this genus, are natives of New Holland, where, except at the time of breeding, they are generally met with in large flocks. Seeds and grasses form their favourite food.

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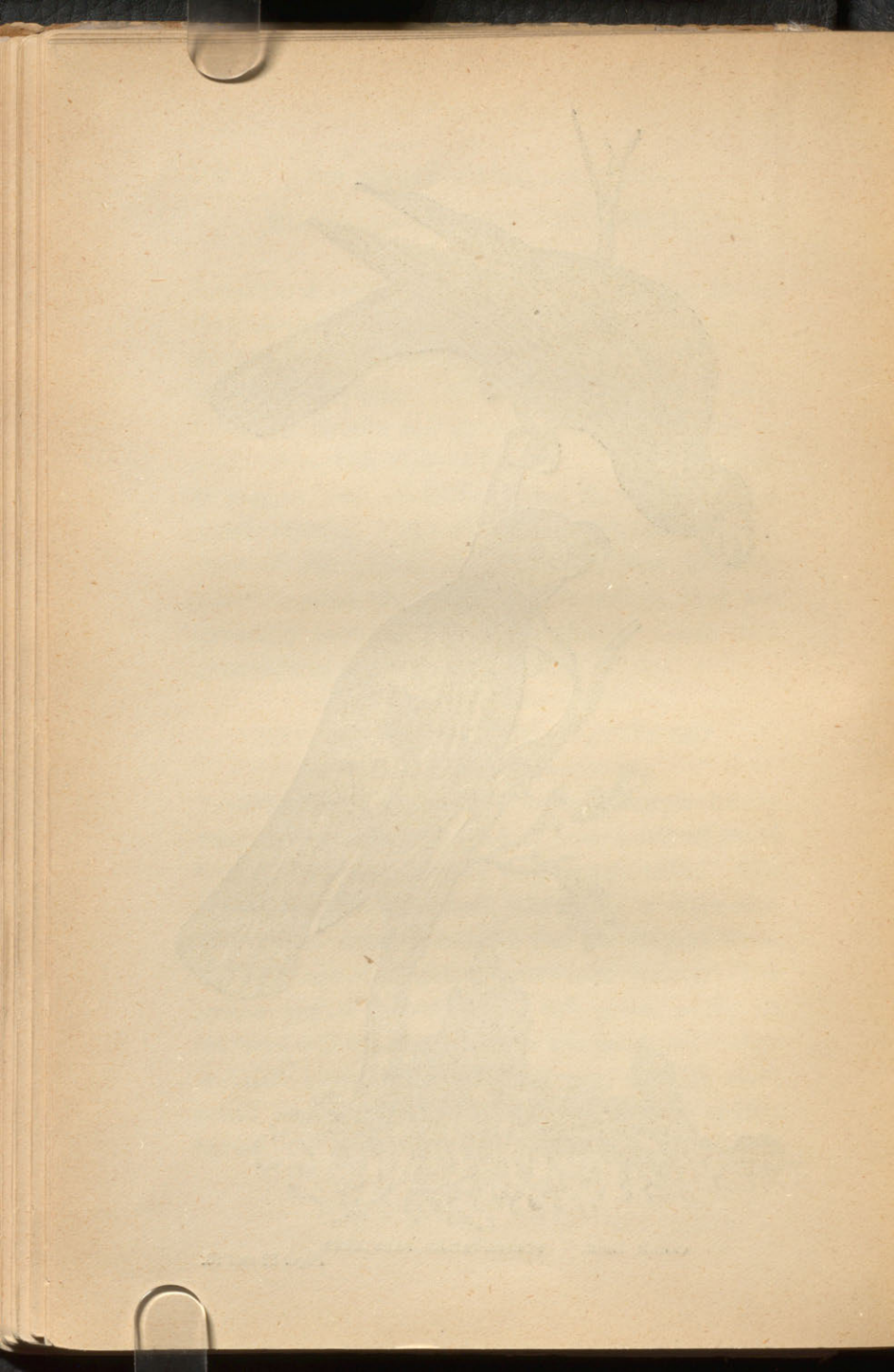
## THE ORANGE-WINGED LORRIKEET

*(Trichoglossus Pyrrhopterus).*

LORRIKEETS are remarkable for their hairy or bristly tongues, and are very fond of honey, and all sweet food. Their habits are very much alike. The Orange-Winged Lorrieket, which has a somewhat lengthened upper-mandible, has an elegant form, and plumage of singular variety and beauty. The greater part of its body is of a rich green, whilst its feathers, which narrow towards the point, are orange and dark grey. The toes are strong, and the claws broad and extended. These birds can be readily tamed.



CERAM LOBY. PURPLE-TAILED PARRAKEET. *Pages 90 and 93.*



## DISEASES.

FROM DR. KARL RUSS.

THERE is no more certain cure for the diseases of birds than consists in the removal of the cause of illness by as natural and judicious a treatment as can be devised. Since it is always difficult, and often impossible, to eradicate disease, the most important part of the task of the bird amateur lies in the successful effort to avoid it.

The chief and most necessary points to be observed, in order to keep all kinds of birds in good health, are the following :—

Perfect cleanliness.

Careful, regular attention, as nearly as possible at the same hour each day.

A plentiful supply of good, appropriate, and well varied food, according to the time of year; all unnatural dainties being strictly withheld.

Pure, fresh water, constantly renewed for bathing and drinking.

Light and sunshine in abundance, taking care to provide sufficient shady retreats, and an equable temperature, neither too high nor too low; excessive heat, either from the stove or the rays of the sun, is extremely hurtful; whereas even delicate birds may safely be accustomed to a cool and even low temperature.

Draughts, damp, sudden and violent changes of the degree of warmth, unsound seed or sour food and impure water; dirt and neglect, disturbance and terror, are among the most frequent causes of illness among all aviary birds.

**Sepsis or Typhus.** This malignant disease, which is incurable and highly infectious, is caused by blood-poisoning, arising from neglect and bad management during the voyage. All birds, suspected of this disease—or rather all freshly imported birds—should for several weeks be carefully kept apart from the rest.

**Asthma, panting, and difficulty in breathing** proceed from inflammation of the organs of respiration, and, fortunately, slight affections of the throat and windpipe occur more frequently than inflammation of the lungs. The bird should at once be put into a small cage, kept as quiet as possible, and given stimulating or plain food according to its state of health. The drinking water should be of the same temperature as the air of the room. The inside of the mouth, and as far down the throat as possible, should be painted once a day with a fine brush dipped into weak solution of Salicylic Acid, diluted with water, not with spirit. Should the nostrils be wet or inflamed, these also should be lightly touched with it. The cage should be hung where the air is pure, and should be well protected

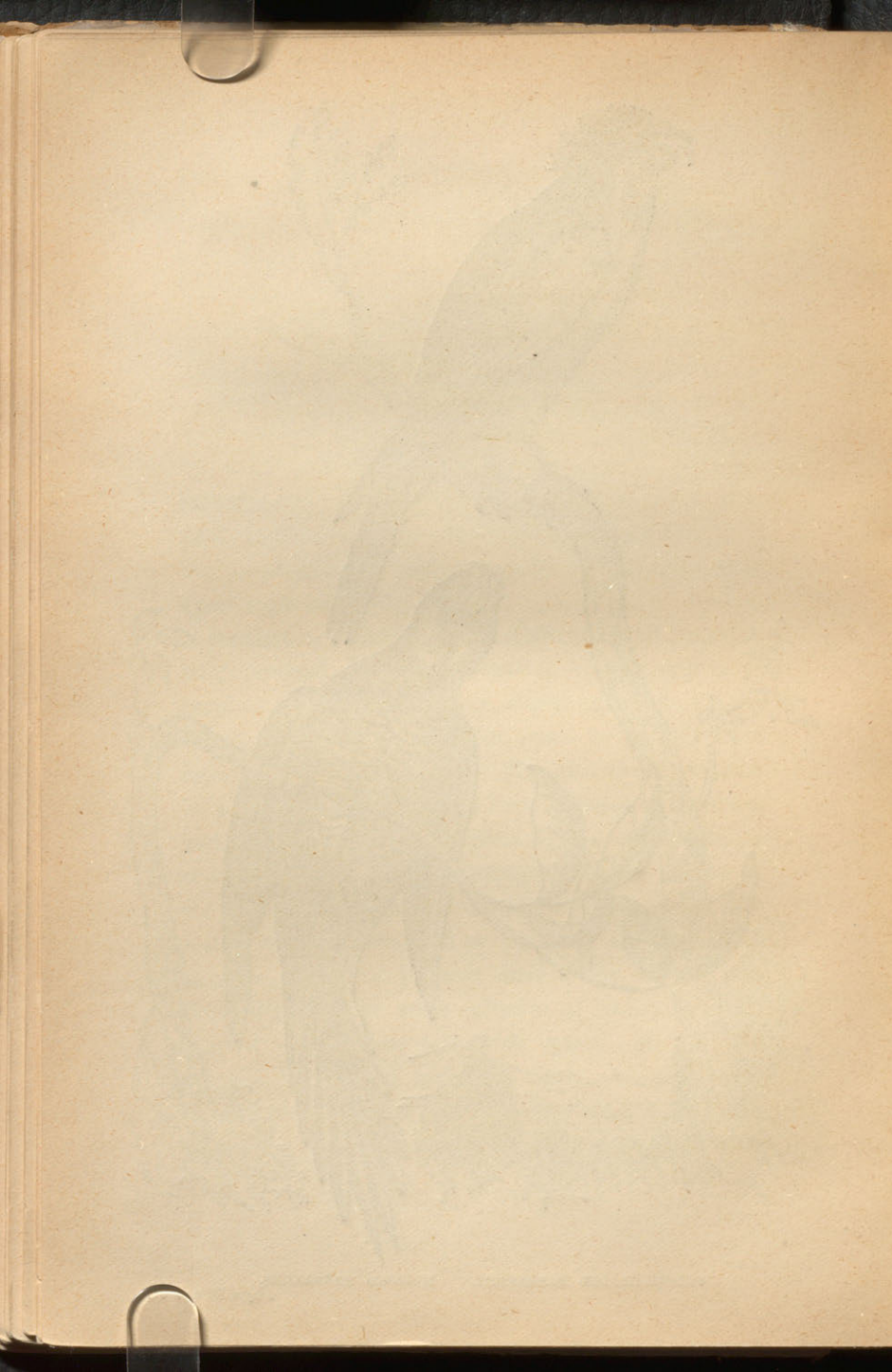




PURPLE-HEADED PARRAKEET.

MOLUCCA PARRAKEET.

Pages 93 and 94.



from draughts. Birds which suffer from difficulty in breathing derive great relief from having tepid water sprinkled round them for a few minutes once or twice a day. The room should be kept rather warmer than usual, not under 60°.

**Inflammation of the Bowels** is caused by bad food, especially sour soft food, and also draught, or too cold water. The only remedy that I have found by experience to be effectual, is to keep the bird in a very warm equable temperature for some weeks, if possible in a cage or enclosure filled with sand, which must feel warm to the hand; but as the warmth must always be kept up steadily, this is naturally rather difficult to manage; the food to consist of seed only; one drop of Aconitum into about a wineglass of water will be found effective.

**Epileptic and other fits.** It has been proposed, as a cure, to cut one of the bird's nails so as to make it bleed, but I am no advocate of such mutilations. Should the fit occur only once, it is of no consequence; but if the attacks recur several times, the bird should be taken in hand, to prevent its injuring itself, and sprinkled with cold water by means of a small syringe, and a change should be made in its diet and management. Plenty of fruit and greenmeat should be given, and more stimulating food is advisable if the bird, which suffers from fits, appears thin.

**Excess of internal fat.** The best preventive against this is to give as spacious a cage as possible; and the danger can be avoided by gradually diminishing the amount of stimulating food, such as mealworms, ants' eggs, chopped meat and eggs, etc. (withholding it altogether in the case of seed-eating birds), and increasing the amount of vegetable food.

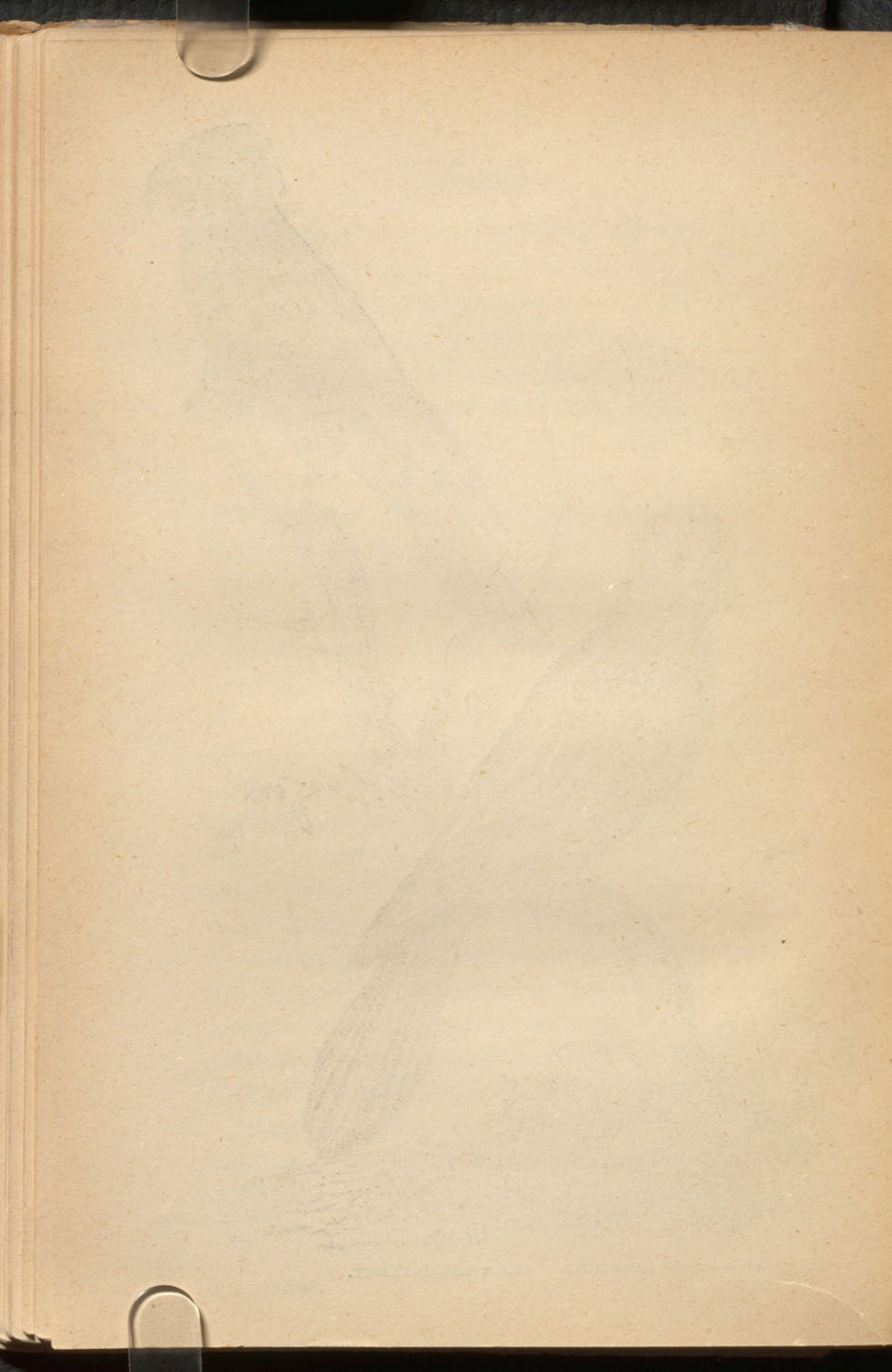
**Flatulence** is often the result of fatness. The bird may be freed from suffering by carefully pricking the bladder-like swelling with a fine needle.

**Giddiness, or Vertigo,** is either the result of habit, acquired by being kept in unsuitable cages, particularly those with round tops, or is due to parasites in the brain. In both instances, the bird continually keeps its head on one side, generally hopping from one perch to another with great regularity, holding its beak upwards, as if it were looking at something on the ceiling or on the floor sideways, continuing to bend its head back till it finally overbalances, reels, and frequently falls down in a fit. In the first instance it can easily be cured by putting it into a judiciously arranged square cage; but where it arises from serious disease of the brain, owing to tiny worms inside the skull, there is not much prospect of a cure, the disease being at present too little known and observed.

**Disease of the Oilgland** requires nourishing food, as does *atrophy* or *wasting away*. It will



VIOLET-BLUE PARRAKEET. GREAT BILLED PARROT.



often disappear of itself, if the bird be given plenty of water to bathe in. The supposed cure by opening the sore with a needle, and pressing out the matter, is harmful and barbarous.

**Diarrhœa** should be treated in the same way as inflammation of the bowels.

**External diseases.** The best plan to get rid of bird-lice and all other insect plagues is as follows: Dip a paint-brush into a weak dilution of Glycerine (one drop to twenty, or three drops to a teaspoonful of water), and paint the bird lightly on such parts as he cannot reach with his beak, that is, the head, neck, shoulders and upper part of the back, blowing aside the feathers and wetting the skin only, and dusting it well with the best Insect Powder, by means of a small squirt. It does not matter whether the powder falls on other parts of the bird or not, as it is quite harmless. A bath, with a little sulphur in it, should be given, and, each time after the bird has washed, the cage should be thoroughly cleaned out with hot water, dried, and sprinkled with fine ashes. The bird meanwhile may be put in a clean cage, and hung up in a different place. Of course the bird must be protected from draught and changes of temperature while under treatment. The next day it should have fine dry sand given to it to bathe in, and the whole proceeding should be persevered in until the bird is quite freed from its

tormentors. Good nourishing diet also forms part of the cure, and must not be omitted.

**Broken legs** will generally unite successfully if the broken ends be placed in proper position between two smooth splinters of wood; bound round tolerably firmly with a thick soft woollen thread, and smeared over evenly with thick Glue or moist Plaster of Paris (gypsum). The bird must be held still while this dries, and then put into a very small cage. At the end of a fortnight or three weeks the bandage can be taken off by moistening it carefully in warm water. Should the broken leg be so mangled that it hangs by a mere thread of skin, it will be best to cut it right off with a sharp pair of scissors, dipping the stump into Glycerine, and powdering it thickly with Starch-powder, before letting the bird fly; with this treatment it will invariably heal.

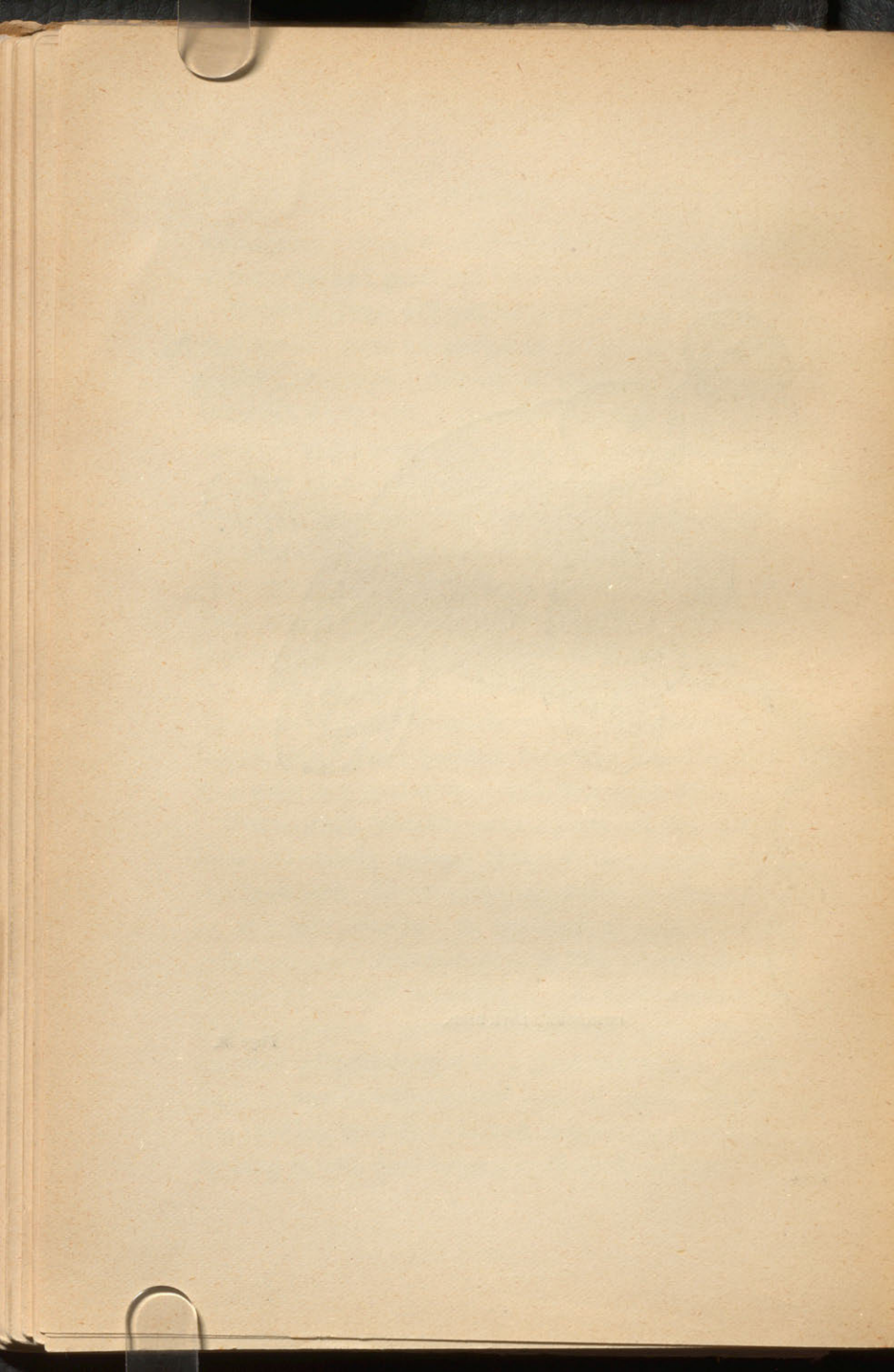
**Sores and ulcers** occur among all the larger birds, especially among those of the parrot kind, cardinals, etc. The swelling must first be examined, to ascertain whether it be hard or soft, already yellow or much inflamed, that is, hot; and the defect should be treated accordingly. A ripe suppurated (full of yellow matter) abscess may generally be emptied without danger by a good cut with a sharp knife or lancet, when it will heal of itself. Should the swelling be very inflamed, it must be cooled by bathing it with lead-water; or if hard, softened by





SWINDEEN'S LOVE-BIRD.

Page 88.



applying poultices, changing them often. Good and natural food is essential. All dainties should be avoided.

**Plucking out of their own feathers.** This morbid habit arises from an irritation of the skin, caused by injudicious treatment. To avoid it, all the larger kinds of parrots and parrakeets should be well supplied with wood to gnaw—and chalk in some form or other—cuttle-fish bone in large pieces is the best thing to give. The bird should have no dainties, but its own proper food. Every possible effort must be made to distract and amuse the bird. If a bird is noticed to continually gnaw at its feet, they should be painted over with Carbolie Acid Oil.

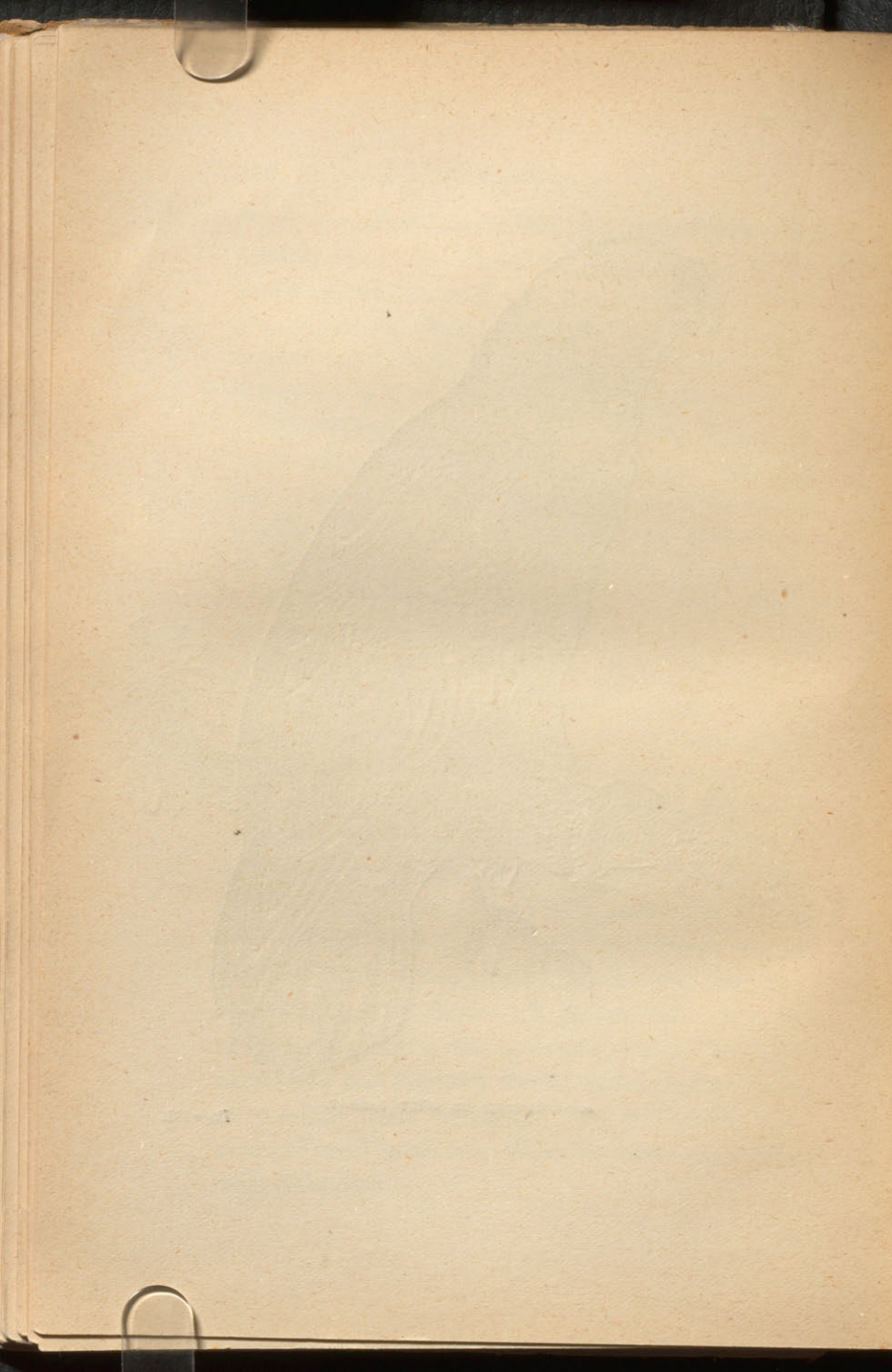
**Sore eyes,** caused by draught and inflammation, should be moistened twice a day with a very weak solution of Oxide of Zinc, or, when better, with Rose Water. If the disease consists of tiny ulcers forming round the edges, and even on the eye itself, the eyes may be touched with the weakest possible solution of lunar caustic. Plain food, instead of dainties, must be given.

**Moulting.** Although the regular yearly change of feathers, or moulting, can scarcely be reckoned among the actual diseases of birds, yet with many it is attended by suffering and even danger. In order to avoid this, the two following rules must be carefully observed: All insectivorous birds should be

given the most nourishing and stimulating food possible, from the beginning to the end of the moulting season; seed-eating birds, in addition to the stimulating food, being kept at a steady high temperature (66 to 72 deg. Fahr.; 16 to 18 R.). Clean, dry sand and chalk, cuttle-fish bone, or some substitute, must regularly be provided. Large fat mealworms, fresh or scalded ants' eggs with egg bread, hard-boiled or preserved yolk of eggs, and a small supply of greenmeat, and perfect cleanliness, are the chief requirements necessary to help all birds successfully over the moulting season. Bathing-water should be given on warm forenoons, first allowing the water to stand for some time in the same room. Should the moulting not proceed favourably, owing to weakness, or some other cause, and the bird appear very ill, it is advisable to pull out very carefully now and then a single broken flight or other feather, but only one at once. This is so far advantageous in that it gives a gentle impetus to the whole process of reproduction of the plumage, and the taking away the stumps makes room for the new feathers in the same way that the milk-teeth of children are pulled out. But, as already mentioned, the greatest caution must be exercised; and the birds should be touched as little as possible while moulting. In conclusion, the amateur must watch over all his feathered favourites with great care.



ASH-COLOURED OR GREY PARROT.



## CAGES.

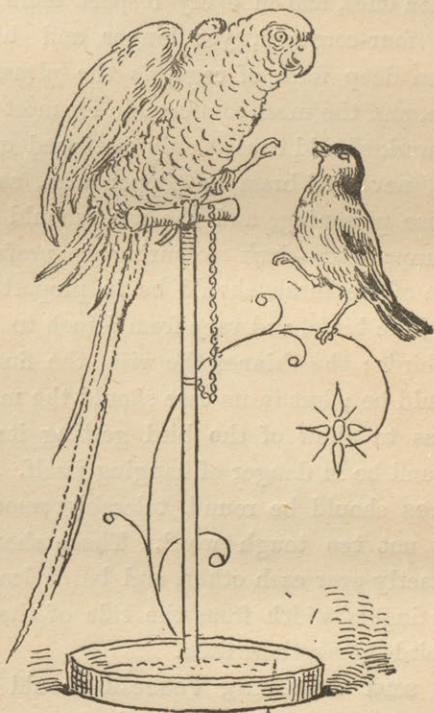
FROM DR. KARL RUSS.

**Cages** should be as spacious as possible, and should be arranged so that they can be cleaned easily and thoroughly. Metal cages are more easily cleaned than wooden ones, and in every respect more practical. A four-cornered, yet longer and higher, rather than deep form of cage, is the pleasantest to the eye, and the most comfortable for most birds. The wire-work should consist only of tinned or zinc iron wire, never of brass or copper wire, as they might cause poisoning, and the wire should never be left unpainted—dark colouring is preferable. The width of the mesh should be in proportion to the size of the birds, and vary from  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to    inch for large birds; the thinner the wire, the finer the mesh should be; but in no case should the mesh be so wide as to allow of the bird getting its head through, and be in danger of hanging itself.

**Perches** should be round, tolerably smooth, of solid but not too tough wood. These should be placed exactly over each other, and be at least two or three fingers' width from the side of the cage, lest the birds break their tails.

**Food and drinking vessels** should be of glass or china only, as the metal ones soon rust through, and are apt to become injurious. The food vessels should never be of wood or cardboard, which is so easily gnawed to pieces.

**Bathing-vessels.** The best are the clay flower-pot saucers (glazed inside), as they are easily kept clean, and on account of their flat form they can easily be pushed in and taken out.



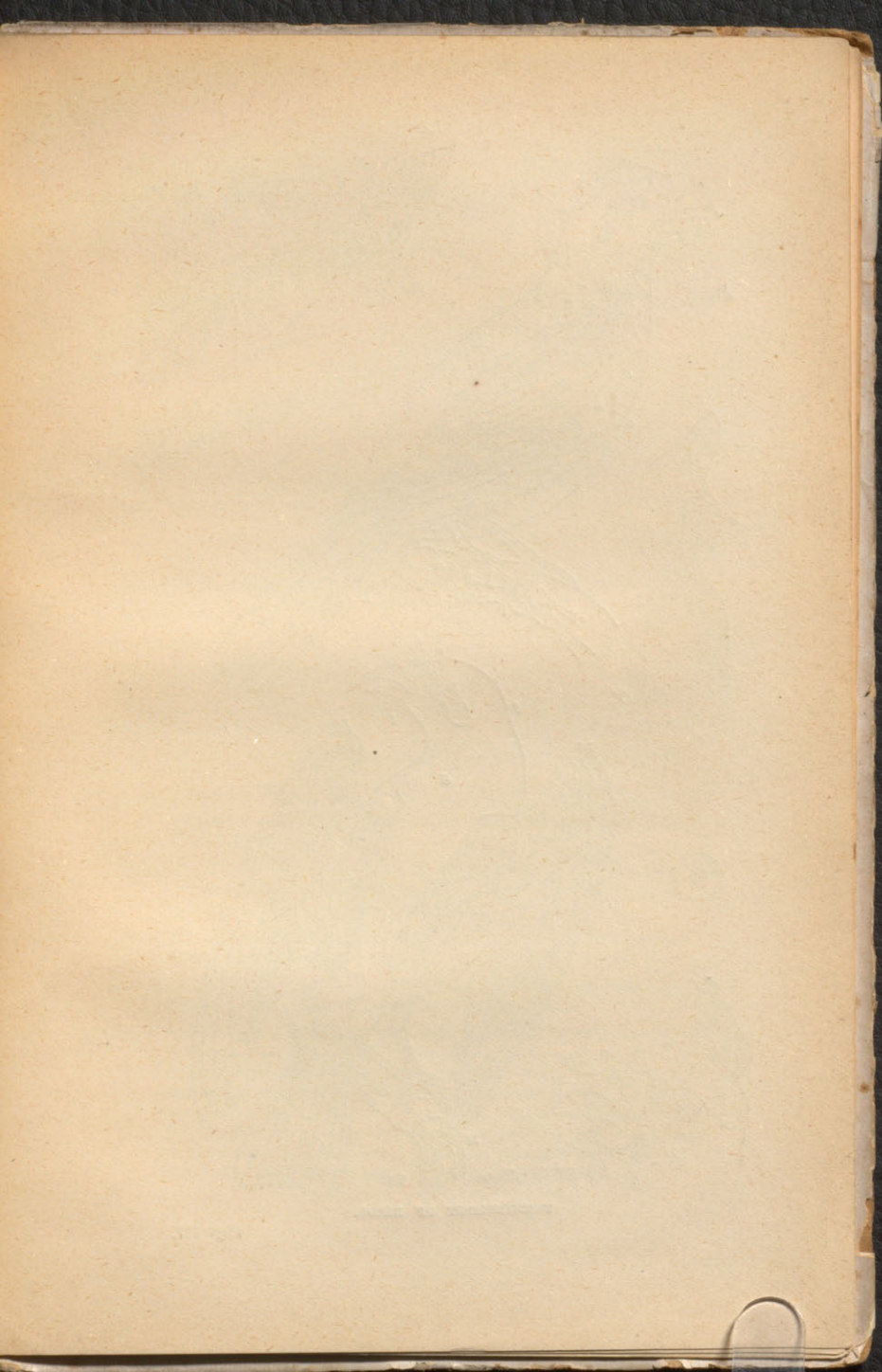


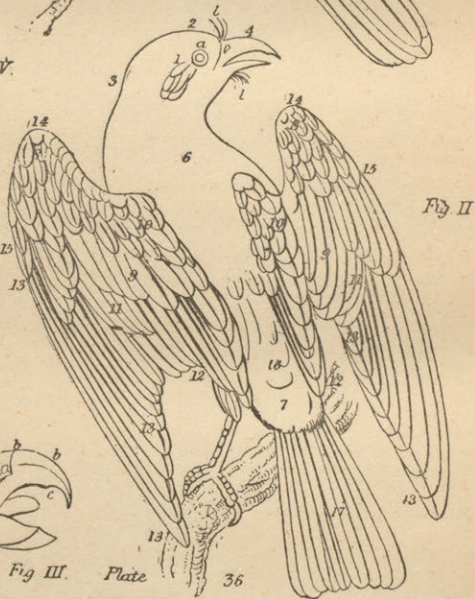
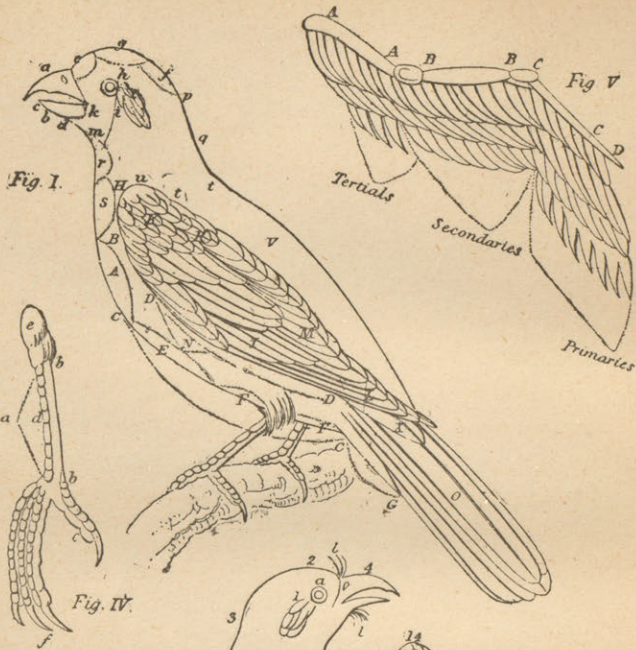


PALE-HEADED BROADTAIL.

ORANGE-WINGED LORRIKEET.







TERMINOLOGY OF BIRDS.

## TERMINOLOGY OF BIRDS.

Figure 2.

- The AURICULARS, or feathers which cover the ears, 1.
- The CROWN, 2.
- The NAPE, 3.
- Upper and under mandibles, or chaps, 4-4.
- Chin, 5.
- The interscapular region, 6.
- Tail coverts; these feathers cover the tail at its upper side or base, 7.
- LESSER WING COVERTS, 8-8-8-8,—(*tectrices primæ*, Linnæus)  
—these are small feathers that lie in several rows on the bones of the wings.
- GREATER WING COVERTS, 9-9-9-9,—(*tectrices secundæ*, Linn.)  
—the feathers that lie immediately over the quill feathers and the secondaries.
- The SCAPULARS, 10-10-10, or those feathers which take their rise from the shoulders, and cover the sides of the back.
- The SECONDARIES, 11-11-11-11, or secondary quills,—(*secundariæ*, Linn.)—those that rise from the second bone.
- The TERTIALS, 12-12.—These also take their rise from the second bone at the elbow joint, forming a continuation of the secondaries, and seem to do the same with the scapulars which lie over them. These feathers are so long in some species of the *Scolopax* and *Tringa*, that when the bird is flying, they give it the appearance of having four wings; as in the figure we have given. In nearly all other species they are but a little longer than the SECONDARIES.

The PRIMARIES, or PRIMARY QUILLS, 13-13-13-13,—(*primores*, *Linn.*)—the largest feathers of the wing; they rise from the first bone.

The SHOULDER, 14-14.

The BASTARD WINGS, or SPURIOUS WINGS, 15-15.

The RUMP, 16

MIDDLE TAIL FEATHER, 17.

The VENT feathers, 18.

The THIGH, 19.

The knee joint, 20.

The leg, 21.

The UNDER COVERTS are those which line the inside or under surface of the wings.

Figure 3.

The CERE—(*cera*, *Linn.*)—the naked skin which covers the base of the bill, *a*.

The ORBITS—(*orbita*, *Linn.*)—the skin which surrounds the eye. It is generally bare, as in Parrots and the Heron, &c., *e*, *e*.

A NOTCHED Mandible, *c*.

A CREST, *d*.

Figure 1.

According to the New Nomenclature, the principal parts of Birds are eight, as follow:—

- I. The ROSTRUM, ( 1. *Maxilla*, upper part, or mandible of the  
bill or beak, ( bill, fig. I. *a*.  
which is divid- 2. *Mandibula*, the lower mandible, *b*.  
ed into 3 parts. 3. *Gongs*, point of the Mandibula, *c*.

The beak is again subdivided into 5 parts.

1. *Nares*, the nostrils, fig. III. *a*.
2. *Dertrum*, the hook.
3. *Culmen*, the ridge, fig. II. *b*.
4. *Mesorhinium*, the upper ridge.
5. *Cera*, the wax, or cere on the bill, fig. III. *a*, *b*.

II. CAPUT, the head, which is divided into 18 parts.

1. *Lorum*, the naked line at the base of the bill, fig. I. *d*.
2. *Lingua*, the tongue.
3. *Frons*, the forehead, fig. I. *e*. fig. II. *c*.
4. *Capistrum*, the face, fig. II. *a*.
5. *Sinciput*, the hinder part of the head, fig. I. *f*.
6. *Corona*, the crown of the head, fig. I. *g*.
7. *Regio ophthalmica*, region of the eyes, *h*.
8. *Oculus*, the eye.
9. *Orbita*, the orbits or centre of the eyes.
10. *Tempora*, the temples, *i*.
11. *Supercilium*, the eye-brows, *j*.
12. *Gena*, the cheek, *k*.
13. *Crista*, the crest, fig. III. *d*.
14. *Cornua*, the horns, as exemplified in the horned owls, consisting of upright bunches of feathers.
15. *Barba*, the beard, fig. I. *l*.
16. *Mentum*, the chin, *m*.
17. *Aures*, the ears, *n*.
18. *Regio parotica*, the protuberance behind the ear, *o*.

III. COLLUM, the neck, which is divided into 2 parts.

1. *Cervix*, the hinder part of the neck, which includes 2 parts, from *p* to *q*.
  1. *Nucha*, nape of the neck, *p*.
  2. *Auchenium*, part below the nape, *g*.
2. *Guttur*, the throat, which is subdivided into 4 parts.
  1. *Caruncula*, or wattles, the fleshy substances under the throat of the cock, &c.
  2. *Gula*, the gullet, *r*.
  3. *Jugulum*, the lower part of the throat, *s*.
  4. *Saccus jugularis*, the crop.

IV. DORSUM, the back, which is divided into 5 parts.

1. *Interscapulum*, between the shoulders, *t, t*.
2. *Humeri*, the shoulders, *u*.
3. *Tergum*, the middle of the back, *v*.
4. *Scapularis*, the scapulars, *w*.
5. *Uropygium*, the rump, or tail coverts, *x*.

- V. CORPUS, the body, which is divided into 7 parts. {
1. *Pectus*, the breast, *A.*
  2. *Axilla*, the armpits, *B.*
  3. *Abdomen*, the abdomen, *C. C. C.*
  4. *Hypochondria*, the sides of the abdomen, *D.*
  5. *Epigastrium*, the stomach, *E.*
  6. *Venter*, the belly, *F. F.*
  7. *Crissum*, the vent, *G.*
- VI. ALA, the wing, which is divided into 7 parts. {
1. *Flexura*, the bend of the wing, *H.*
  2. *Tectrices majores*, largest wing-coverts, *I. I.*
  3. *Tectrices medæ*, middle wing-coverts, *J. J.*
  4. *Tectrices minores*, smallest wing coverts, *K. K.*
  5. *Primariæ*, quills, *L. L.*
  6. *Remiges*, rowers, *M.*
  7. *Alula spuria*, bastard wing, *N.* and Fig II. 15.
- VII. CAUDA, the tail, has 2 parts, {
1. { *Rectrices intermedia*, or } Middle tail  
*Tectrices cauda intermedia.* } feathers, *O.*
  2. { *Rectrices laterales*, or } Side tail fea-  
*Tectrices cauda laterales.* } thers, *P.*
- VIII. CRUS, the leg, which is divided into 3 parts. {
1. *Femora*, the thighs, fig. IV. *e.*
  2. *Tibia*, the part from the foot to the thigh, which contains 3 parts, *R.* fig. IV. *a.* {
    1. *Acrostarsium*, front of the leg, fig. IV. *a.*
    2. *Planta*, back of the leg, fig. IV. *b. b.*
    3. *Calcaria*, the spurs, as in domestic cock.
  3. *Pes*, or *Tarsus*, the foot, which contains 3 parts. {
    1. *Digiti*, the toes.
    2. *Hallux*, the great, or hind toe, fig. IV. *b. c.*
    3. *Ungues*, the claws, fig. IV. *f.*

The bones of the wing are, first, the *Brachium*, fig. V. *A. A.*—second, the *Cubitus*, *B. B.*—third, the *Carpus*, *C. C.*—fourthly, the spurious wing bone, *D.*



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