

NOTES ON SOME PARROTS.

By THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCILD.

(Plate XVIII.)

1. *Eos bornea* (L.).

1758: *Psittacus borneus*, Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* ed. X. p. 97. Entirely and solely based on the long-tailed scarlet Lory of Edwards, IV. pl. 173. Habitat erroneously: Borneo!

I fully agree with Salvadori (*Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* XX. p. 23) that Edwards's long-tailed scarlet Lory refers to this species. Finsch (*Papageien* II. p. 911) enumerates it among his doubtful species; but this is hardly necessary, as there is no other Parrot to which it could be referred, and as the figure and description suit very well, especially since adult specimens have sometimes greenish tips to the wings and the tail "a little tinged with green," as Edwards says. It is thus in accordance with modern rules of nomenclature to accept "*Psittacus borneus*." The next name available would be *Psittacus chinensis* Müller, 1776. There has been no discussion about the meaning of this name, but it has not been accepted by the authorities on Parrots (Finsch, Salvadori, Reichenow) because the species is not found in China. Then follows *Psittacus ruber* Gmelin, 1788, the name now generally used for this species, in the form of *Eos rubra*. I prefer, however, to call it *Eos bornea*, inadvertently spelt *Eos borneus* on the plate.

In the beginning of this year I received two specimens of a red and blue *Eos* from the Kei Islands, sent by Mr. Heinrich Kühn. I saw at once that they differed from all specimens in my specially complete collection of Parrots, and was struck by the large blue patch behind the eyes, the great extent of blue on the scapulars, and the red under tail-coverts. I at first thought they were *Eos semilarvata*, the more so by looking up the key to the genus *Eos* in *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.* XX. p. 19. I found, however, that Mr. Kühn's two birds did not agree with *E. semilarvata*, so I unfortunately described them as a new species under the name of *Eos kühni*. I subsequently found in Dr. Otto Finsch's *Die Papageien* that he had described this bird as *schlegeli*, refusing to accept Rosenberg's name of *Eos bernsteini*, as he considered the description insufficient. Both these names were put down as synonyms in the *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.* Later in the year I received from Mr. Kühn six further specimens, which I was forced to identify as *Eos bornea*; then there arose in my mind a doubt, for the two specimens I had called *Eos kühni* were not quite alike in all details, and on Mr. Hartert carefully comparing our series of *Eos* with those in the British Museum we discovered that *Eos schlegeli* (= *E. bernsteini* = *E. kühni*) was only the young of *Eos bornea*. My mistake was made because in the *Catalogue of Birds* and elsewhere the descriptions of the young of *Eos bornea* are wholly inadequate, and in the various "Keys to the species" the blue postocular patch refers at once to *E. semilarvata*. Although specimens with the blue postocular patch are among those enumerated in the list of specimens in the *Catalogue of Birds*, no mention of it is made, but only the more or less

conspicuous blue edges to the feathers of the under parts and the reddish under tail-coverts are mentioned as characters of the young. I therefore add a description of old and young of *Eos bornea*.

♂ ad. Red. Wide tips to primaries and outer webs to first primaries black, more or less tinged with green. Secondaries with narrow black tips. Innermost secondaries mostly black, with a blue tinge. One series of large upper wing-coverts mostly blue-black, forming a bar across the wing. A blue patch, not more than 3 cm. in length, on the scapulars. Rectrices tinged with purplish bronze, sometimes with a yellowish greenish tinge. Feathers on sides of vent and under tail-coverts pale blue, more or less red on the bases. "Iris bright brown; feet blackish; bill yellowish vermilion."

♀ ad. Perfectly similar to the *male*.

Kei Island birds measure: wing 165—175 mm., tail 125—130, bill (along the side) about 23 mm.

Juv. The feathers of the body, which in the adult bird are red with the utmost base only whitish, are red for about half their length, the basal half being brownish grey. Scapulars blue for about 5—6 cm. Large postocular patch blue. Thighs and feathers on middle abdomen tipped with blue. Under tail-coverts red, tinged more or less with bluish purple. Otherwise like the adult *male*.

Sufficient material is not available to decide whether all islands inhabited by *Eos bornea* have exactly the same forms, or whether there might be some slight local differences. Birds from the Kei Islands seem to be generally larger.

2. *Cyclopsittacus macilwraithi* Rothsch.

This remarkable little Parrot has been described in the *Bull. B. O. Club*, No. XLIX. p. 21, as follows:—

Forehead to middle of crown and line round eyes black, slightly washed with blue. Rest of head, neck, tail, and upper surface, including upper wing-coverts, dark grass-green. Primaries and outer secondaries black, with bright blue outer webs; innermost secondaries green, with the inner webs black, bordered with buff. Sides of head and neck and entire breast buff, strongly washed with yellow. Abdomen, flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts apple-green. Under wing-coverts apple-green, bright blue along the outer edge. Total length 125 mm., wing 86, tail 37, culmen 16, tarsus 10. Iris brown; bill deep brown.

This bird is named in compliment to Mr. McIlwraith, of the firm of McIlwraith, McEacharn & Co.

3. *Oreopsittacus grandis* Grant.

Of this very distinct species I have received four specimens, three *males* and a *female*.

I am sorry to see that this form, described already in 1895, has been redescribed as *O. viridigaster* (nomen hybridum!) by Mr. De Vis in the Appendix AA to the Official Report on New Guinea, published in 1898.

4. *Neopsittacus pullicauda* Hart.

Since this form was described (in March 1896) we have received four additional specimens, which all agree perfectly with the type.

Here again Mr. De Vis has created an unnecessary synonym in describing this species again under the name of *N. viridiceps*.

5. *Cyclopsittacus nanus* De Vis.

I cannot, from the description of Mr. De Vis, make out any real differences between this and *C. suavisimus*, except that the wing is five millimetres shorter.

6. *Psittacella madaraszi* Meyer.

Of this rare Parrot I have received two more skins from the mountains of British New Guinea.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW KANGAROOS, AND NOTES ON THE SKULL OF *DENDROLAGUS BENNETTIANUS* DE VIS.

BY THE HON. WALTER AND N. C. ROTHSCHILD.

1. *Dendrolagus maximus* sp. nov.

Female adult.—Nape-hair from withers to crown directed forwards. Fur coarse and harsh. Build more thick and clumsy even than in *D. ursinus*. Rhinarium and general affinities nearest to *D. inustus*. This species, however, differs from all the rest by its much larger size. Back of head and neck from the crown to the withers black, each hair tipped with earthy grey. Back from withers to just above root of tail black, under fur and base of long hairs dark chestnut-red. Cheeks, chin, and throat greyish white; breast and belly reddish grey, or perhaps greyish buff. Forelimbs brownish grizzly grey; hindlimbs whitish grey, fading into yellowish white on the posterior side of the hip. Anal region and base of tail yellowish white. Tail whitish grey, with dark grey ill-defined rings throughout its length. Hindtoes black.* Skull: forehead inflated. Fronto-nasal suture curved backwards. There are two pairs of postpalatal foramina instead of one pair. P⁴ much broader than m¹, its posterior much greater than its anterior transverse diameter.

Young.—Upper surface more grizzled than in adult; lower back and base of tail very rufous; tail darker grey, not ringed.

Hab. Dutch New Guinea (coll. Bruijn).

DIMENSIONS.

	♀ (stuffed).	Juv. (stuffed).
Head and body	890 mm.	407 mm.
Tail	838 „	457 „
Hindfoot	152 „	88 „
Ear	46 „	27 „

* On upperside of tail near the root is a large nearly circular naked cushion of a black colour, and corrugated and granulated like the soles of the hindfeet.



J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

Mintern Bros. imp.

1. EOS BORNEUS (L.) juv., Key Islands. ($\frac{3}{4}$ nat. size.)
2. CYCLOPSITTACUS MACILWRAITHI Rothsch. (Nat. size.)



Rothschild, Lionel Walter Rothschild. 1898. "Notes on some parrots." *Novitates zoologicae : a journal of zoology in connection with the Tring Museum* 5, 509–511.

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