



CYCLOPSITTA MACCOYI, Gould.

CYCLOPSITTA MACCOYI, *Gould.*

M'Coy's Perroquet.

Cyclopsitta Maccoyi, Gould, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 314 (April).

——— *Leadbeateri*, M'Coy, Ann. N. H. (4) xvi. p. 54 (July 1875).

AUSTRALIA now possesses two species of *Cyclopsitta*, a genus unknown to inhabit the continent until a few years ago, when the *C. Coxeni* was discovered. New Guinea has three species, the Aru Islands and the Philippines two each, while *C. Blythi* is confined to the island of Mysol. The distribution of this little genus is therefore very remarkable, and its absence from Celebes and the Halmahéra group of islands is not what we should have expected.

I am indebted to Mr. Waller, of Brisbane, for the loan of the specimens from which my original description was taken; and I felt great pleasure in adopting the suggestion of that gentleman that I should confer upon the species the name of Professor M'Coy, to whom so much of the progress of science in the Australian colonies is due. Unfortunately this little bird is already burdened with a synonym; for nearly at the same time that I described it, Professor M'Coy himself sent a description of the species, proposing for it the name of *C. Leadbeateri*. He gives the characters as follows:—"The general size, shape, and colouring is nearly like that of *C. Coxeni*; but it is somewhat smaller, and has in both sexes an oblong patch of red on the forehead, just over the cere. It differs also in habitat, frequenting the scrubs more than *C. Coxeni* does. It seems to be rather rare at Cardwell, where the specimens described were collected by Mr. Broadbent."

Male.—General colour green, the face having all the fantastic colours of the Harlequin; on the forehead a band of bright scarlet, surrounded by cobalt, a shade of the same colour encircling the latter, narrow above, broader below; on the cheeks, from the base of the bill to the tips of the ear-coverts, a band of scarlet like that on the forehead; and below this is an obscure band of purplish blue, gradually fading off into the green of the neck; flank-feathers tipped with bright lemon-yellow; quills externally blue, the inner secondaries green, with the usual tiny patch of scarlet adjoining the back; tail green; under wing-coverts green, the outer ones washed with blue; quills blackish below, diagonally crossed near the base with a yellow band. Total length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing $3\frac{3}{8}$, tail $1\frac{1}{4}$, tarsus $\frac{3}{8}$.

Female.—Differs from the male in wanting the scarlet cheeks; in other respects similar.

All the members of this little genus roam about in flocks, but, perched among the leaves and flowers of the Eucalypti, are excessively silent and seldom betray their presence until the whole company simultaneously burst forth into the open air and wing their way to other trees.

The figures in the Plate are of the size of life.



Gould, John and Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1875. "Cyclopsitta maccoyi, M'Coy's Perroquet [Pl. 7]." *The birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands : including many new species recently discovered in Australia* 5(I), –.
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