

NOTES ON PSITTIROSTRA PSITTACEA FROM KAUAI, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Valdemar Knudsen the Museum received, a few days ago, two specimens of what appear to be adult males of *Psittirostra psittacea* (TEMM.), from Kauai, Hawaiian Islands. I am not aware that this species has hitherto been recorded from this particular island, hence the present note additional to my previous paper on the birds of Kanai, collected by Mr. Knudsen (*cf.* these "Proceedings," pp. 75 *et seq.*).

Both birds appear to be quite adult, and agree tolerably well with Sharpe's description of the adult male (Cat. B. Br. Mus., X, 1885, p. 51), of which he appears to have had four specimens before him, three of which, at least, came from Hawaii, and, as he makes no remarks to the contrary, I suppose that all his specimens were quite alike. I remark this because Latham's and Temminck's descriptions (and the latter's plate) differ considerably from Sharpe's description and the specimens before me. In order to point out these differences intelligibly I may describe one of the Kauai birds as follows:

[♂] *ad.* (U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 111455. Kauai, Hawaiian Islands).— Entire head and upper part of neck deep gamboge yellow; rest of upper plumage olive-green, with indistinctly dusky centers to the feathers, becoming yellowish, olive-green on the lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts; upper wing-coverts, remiges, and rectrices blackish-brown, margined with yellowish olive-green; lower portion of fore neck and upper breast olive-gray, washed with yellowish, and more greenish on the sides of the neck; middle of breast and abdomen pale olive-buff, becoming whitish on the lower abdomen and crissum, the lower tail-coverts being similarly colored and somewhat spotted with olive-green; sides of breast and flanks vivid olive-yellow; tibiae pale ashy; axillaries and under wing-coverts whitish, edges washed with yellow.

The other specimen (No. 111454) differs in having the yellow of the head more lemon-colored, and in having the whole occiput and upper nape yellowish olive-green, like the rump; the olive spot on the inner webs of the under tail-coverts are more distinct; otherwise the two birds are identical, and, I may add, they have no indication of whitish spots at the tips of upper wing-coverts or tertiaries.

Temminck (Pl. Color., III, livr. 77, pl. 457) describes his *Psittacirostra icterocephala* (only another name for *Ps. psittacea*) thus: "tout le reste du corps [all except the head] d'un vert mat, légèrement grisâtre à la poitrine," and on the plate quoted (badly reproduced by Reichenbach, Handb. Spec. Orn., pl. cccclxv *b*) the entire under surface, including tibiae and under tail-coverts, is uniform deep green. The "Planches

Coloriès" are often very bad, but this difference seems to be too great to be attributable to the carelessness of the artist. It should also be remarked that Latham's description is somewhat similar. He says (Gen. Synops., II, i, p. 109): "The rest of the plumage [all except the head] a greenish olive brown, palest beneath." I will also call attention to von Pelzeln's remarks (Ibis, 1873, p. 22) in regard to two specimens collected in Oahu as compared with Latham's type, which are to the effect that "even the older one [♂] differs from Latham's male bird [then before him], the middle of the breast and belly and the thighs [tibiae?] being whitish," it being the natural inference that these parts are not colored thus in Latham's type.

The question is now: Are there two different species of *Psittirostra* on the Sandwich Islands, or are the differences pointed out above perhaps only due to age?

I may add that Mr. Knudsen writes that this species is "rather rare on Kauai."

U. S. Nat. Mus. No.	Collector.	Sex and age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail- feath- ers.	Exp. culmen.	Tar- sus.	Middle toe with claw.
111455	Knudsen	(♂)ad	Kauai, Hawaiian Islands	95	61	15	24	22
111454	do.....	do.....	do.....	98	60	16	26	24

No. 111455 is molting the first (ninth) primary, but in No. 111454 the wing-formula is as follows: third longest, but slightly longer than fourth, which again is but slightly longer than second; first and fifth are about equal, and 4^{mm} shorter than second; sixth much shorter.

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