



Opopsitta marshalli sp. nov.

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A New Australian Parrot

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The addition of an entirely new bird to the Australian list is a matter of interest, as there seems little opportunity nowadays, but the present case indicates that hope can still exist.

Thirty years ago great astonishment was expressed when two large parrots of New Guinea alliance were found inhabiting a somewhat restricted portion of the Cape York peninsula—not the extreme end, for that had been well searched by many competent ornithologists. A third kind was reported, but this report, though from more than one source, has not since been verified. The discovery of a small parrot from the same neighbourhood suggests re-search.

Captain A. J. Marshall, working in northern Queensland, managed to take interest in the bird life surrounding him, and by one of those lucky strokes which sometimes fall to the earnest enthusiast, he secured three specimens of a fig-parrot, which represent a new species. The three birds proved to be male, female and young male. Two species of fig-parrot grace our List and both are restricted to Queensland. These have been figured together in this journal (vol. 29, p. 81, pl. 14, Oct. 1, 1929), so comparison can be made, by readers, with the present plate.

I propose to call this species after its discoverer—

Opopsitta marshalli sp. nov.

The holotype male was collected in dense jungles on the Great Divide Range behind Lockhart River, Cape York peninsula, north Queensland, 'above sea level' on September 16, 1942.

General coloration green above and below, face red. Bill dark brown, iris dark, feet and legs pale blue-green. Detailed description: Forehead, lores and feathers at base of lower mandible crimson, a line of bright blue feathers above the eye and another short blue line below the red. All

upper surface bright green, a shade paler on the upper tail coverts, inner web of inner secondaries red, tail dull green. Upper wing coverts and secondaries bright green, primary coverts and primaries brown with outer web dull greenish blue, the first primary only lacking this edging, as do all the tips. Under surface to under tail coverts pale green, sides orange yellow, under tail coverts yellowish green, under wing coverts mottled dull yellow and brown, axillaries green, inner lining of primaries dull yellowish as are the basal parts of the secondaries forming a band. Bill (chord from cere to tip) 13 mm., depth from same point 16 mm., wing 84 mm., tail 49 mm., tarsus 11.5 mm., mid-toe without claw 14 mm.

Female collected same place and date, soft parts same. Is similarly coloured above and below, but the forehead is bright pale blue, lores dull brownish yellow as are the feathers at the base of the lower mandible, a blue line of feathers separating this from the green below. Bill (as above) 12 mm., depth 15 mm., wing 82 mm., tail 47 mm., tarsus 11 mm., mid-toe without claw 13 mm.

Young male collected same place and date, soft parts same. Similarly coloured above and below, but forehead duller blue than in female, feathers near the base of the culmen white and red tipped, lores and base feathers of lower mandible pale reddish, line above eye blue, below eye a band of fawnish ending in a blue tip. Bill (as above) 13 mm., depth 15.5 mm., wing 83 mm., tail 45 mm., tarsus 11 mm., mid-toe without claw 14 mm.

As to the vernacular name to be employed, that can be left for the present as the names in use for the two known Australian species have been regarded as inappropriate, the alternative suggestions being even more so.

Opopsitta leadbeateri has blue lores in the male, but this bird has red lores, whilst the female has a red forehead and this has a blue one. The male of *O. coxeni* has a blue forehead, where this has a red one, and is also a larger bird. The only other species is *diophthalma*, the type of *Opopsitta*, described from Triton Bay, south-west Dutch New Guinea, which is a larger bird with a larger bill, having a red cap in the male and no blue above the eye, whilst the female has a red forehead, not blue.

The three specimens described have been presented by Captain Marshall to the Australian Museum, Sydney.

On page 327 of the April, 1946, *Emu*, the species name in the *Pterodroma* note should read *macroptera* and not *leucoptera*. It is correct at the end of the note and the error was discovered in time to have the name included correctly in the volume index.