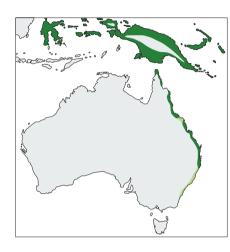
Subgenus Lamprotreron Bonaparte

Lamprotreron Bonaparte, Consp. Av., 2, 1854, p. 17. Type, by original designation, Columba superba Temminck.

Pronounced sexual dimorphism is present in the three species belonging to this subgenus, and prominent features in the plumage of adult males are a broad pectoral band and a red to mauve forecrown. Juveniles resemble the adult female. Only the most widely distributed species – *Ptilinopus superbus* – reaches Australia.



SUPERB FRUIT-DOVE

Ptilinopus superbus (Temminck)

Columba Superba Temminck, in Knip, Les Pigeons, 1810, les colombes, p. 75, pl. 33. ('O-Taïti', error = Halmahera.)

OTHER NAMES

Purple-crowned Fruit-Dove or Fruit-Pigeon, Purple-crowned Pigeon, Superb Fruit-Pigeon.

DESCRIPTION

Length 24 cm.

ADULT MALE

Forehead and lores to occiput deep purple; sides of head to nape green, with rufous tinge on nape; hindneck and upper mantle to sides of breast reddish-chestnut; lower mantle and back to upper tail-coverts dull green; tertials and scapulars blue-black with broad dull green edges giving a spotted appearance; bend of wing dull dark mauve-blue; lesser and median wing-coverts dull green, with base of feathers streaked blue-black and with narrow yellow margins; secondaries, secondary-coverts and inner primary-coverts dull green with yellow margins, and blue-black towards bases of inner webs; outer primary-coverts and primaries dull blue-black with variable dull green wash on outer webs and narrow white margins; undersides of flight feathers and underwing-coverts grey; chin white, becoming pale grey on throat and forecheeks; bifurcated feathers of upper breast purple with broad pale grey tips giving a speckled appearance; lower breast bluish-grey, bordered below by a broad purple-black band; abdomen very pale yellow, almost white; flanks green, feathers with pale yellow edges, and extending to sides of upper and lower abdomen as two incomplete bands; thighs and under tail-coverts cream-white on inner webs, feathers dull green with pale yellow edges; central tail-feathers dull green above, pale grey below; lateral tail-feathers dull green above, pale grey below, with terminal dull white band; bill olive-green with grey-green tip; iris yellow with blackish spill extending through front from pupil; eyering bluishgrey; legs and feet dull crimson; weight 94–155 g.

47 specimens: wing 122–137 (130.4) mm, tail 58–74 (68.9) mm, bill 15–19 (16.8) mm, tarsus 19–23 (20.6) mm.

ADULT FEMALE

Head green with prominent mauve-blue patch on hindcrown; hindneck, mantle and sides of breast green; chin and throat white, on throat feathers with broad pale grey tips; bifurcated feathers of upper breast green with broad grey tips; lower breast grey-green, feathers with pale yellow tips towards abdomen; weight 81–120 g. 34 specimens: wing 124–131 (127.5) mm, tail 63–70 (65.6) mm, bill 15–18 (16.7) mm, tarsus 19–22 (20.2) mm.

JUVENILES (ANWC B15521 ♂)

Like adult female, but no mauve-blue patch on hindcrown; entire breast green, feathers with pale yellow tips giving a barred appearance; iris pale brown; eyering grey; legs and feet grey-brown.

DISTRIBUTION

Eastern Australia and from New Guinea east to the Solomon Islands and west to the Moluccas, Sulawesi and possibly the Sulu Archipelago.

SUBSPECIES

1. P. s. superbus (Temminck)

The nominate subspecies, as described above, occurs in eastern Australia and throughout the remainder of the range, except in Sulawesi and possibly the Sulu Archipelago where replaced by *P. s. temminckii*. In eastern Australia, the breeding range is restricted to coastal and subcoastal north Queensland, from Cape York Peninsula south to about lat. 18°S but, as migrants, casual visitors

OPPOSITE:

Superb Fruit-Dove Ptilinopus superbus superbus with water vine Cissus hypoglauca. Left: ANWC B32613 adult o^o Eungella, Qld, 7 September 1999. Right: ANWC B14348 adult 9 Kuranda, Qld, 21 December 1971.