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TWO NEW BIRDS OF PARADISE

BY
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AND
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TWO NEW BIRDS OF PARADISE.

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THE two most remarkable birds here described were discovered in the mountains of German New Guinea by the veteran collector Wahnes, who will, we hope, give us further particulars as to the exact habitat and altitude, when he has more fully explored the interesting district where he procured these birds.

It is now nine years since any new *Paradiseidae* were described from German New Guinea, and, owing to the large collections sent home from there since, it was thought that all the *Paradiseidae* inhabiting this German colony were known. However, Wahnes has proved that much remains still to be discovered, and we trust that, in spite of great age, he will yet live to send home many more fine new species of birds.

1. *Astrapia rothschildi* Foerster spec. nov.

♂ ad. Similar to *A. nigra*, but the metallic border to the breast-shield is more fiery red, and only reaches to the upper edge of the shield, and not as in *nigra* to below the eye. Postocular black fan-like tufts absent. The metallic edges to the flanks coppery green, not bright green. The whole nape and the lower hind-neck duller green, each feather being edged with purplish bronze, **not** being green at the end as in *nigra*. Breast-shield, head, and throat glossed with blue-green instead of purple.

♀ ad. Similar to *nigra*, but more black and the breast more extendedly barred with pale vermiculations. (abdomen.)

♂. Tail, 495 mm.; wing, 200 mm.; culmen, 30 mm.

Hab. Mountains of German New Guinea (Wahnes coll.).

—F. Foerster.

2. *Parotia wahnesi* Rothsch. spec nov.

♂ ~~ad.~~ Differs from *P. helenae* at first sight by having the whole of the frontal crest composed of curled feathers broadly tipped with bronzy gold, not being straight and entirely bronze-black as in *P. helenae*, in which species only the short feathers at the base of the culmen are tipped with golden bronze. In moult.

Tail, 190 mm.; wing, 152 mm.; culmen, 23 mm.

♀ ad. Differs from the ♀ of *P. helenae* in the much brighter and redder chestnut of the upper surface and the more rufous tone of the under parts. Feathers of hind-neck heavily barred with black. Interscapulium, back and rump more faintly vermiculated with black, while the whole upper parts in *P. helenae* are uniform umber-brown. Wings and tail rufous instead of umber-brown.

Tail, 195 mm.; wing, 165 mm.; culmen, 26 mm.

The character, however, which distinguishes this fine bird from all other species of *Parotia*, and which would in the eyes of many ornithologists be of generic importance, is the long graduated wedge-shaped tail as opposed to the short stumpy square tail of the rest of the genus.

It is impossible to give correct measurements of the male, as the wings and tail are in moult, but the female has the tail 195 mm. = 7·7 inches in length, while in the female of *P. helenae* the tail is 115 mm. = 4·5 inches long. The tail of the male of the new bird, in moult, has a length of 190 mm. = 7·5 inches, while the full-feathered male of *P. helenae* has the tail 88 mm. = 3·5 inches long.

Hab. Mountains of German New Guinea (Wahnes coll.).

—Walter Rothschild.

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