71. <i>Streptopelia interpres</i> (L.).	87. <i>Œstrelata rostrata</i> (Peale).
72. <i>Totanus incanous</i> (Gm.)	88. <i>Larus novæ-hollandiæ</i> , Steph.
73. <i>Limosa uropygialis</i> , Gould.	89. <i>Sterna gracilis</i> , Gould.
74. ——— <i>novæ-zealandiæ</i> ? G. R. Gray.	90. ——— <i>melanauchen</i> , Temm.
75. <i>Numenius uropygialis</i> , Gould.	91. <i>Thalasseus poliocercus</i> , Gould.
76. <i>Schoeniclus australis</i> (Gould).	92. ——— <i>pelecanoides</i> (King).
77. <i>Hypotaenidia philippensis</i> (Gm.).	93. <i>Haliplana fuliginosa</i> (Gm.).
78. <i>Porzana immaculata</i> , Gould.	94. <i>Anous melanops</i> , Gould.
79. <i>Zapornia leucophrys</i> , Gould.	95. <i>Phaëton candidus</i> (Briss.).
80. <i>Gallirallus lafresnayanus</i> , Verr. & Desm.	96. <i>Phaëthon rubricauda</i> (Gm.).
81. <i>Porphyrio melanonotus</i> , Temm.	97. <i>Tachypetes aquilus</i> (L.).
82. ——— <i>bellus</i> , Gould.	98. ——— <i>minor</i> (Gm.).
83. <i>Egretta brevipes</i> , Verr. & Desm.	99. <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucus</i> (Vieill.).
84. <i>Herodias novæ-hollandiæ</i> (Lath.).	100. <i>Dysporus sula</i> (L.).
85. ——— <i>albolineata</i> , G. R. Gray.	101. <i>Anas superciliosa</i> , Gm.
86. <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i> (Steph.).	102. <i>Mareca castanea</i> , Gould.
	103. <i>Nyroca australis</i> , Gould.
	104. <i>Spatula rhynchotis</i> (Lath.).
	105. <i>Dendrocygna gouldi</i> (Bp.).
	106. <i>Podiceps gularis</i> , Gould.

XXXI.—Notes on some Birds collected during the Exploration of the Fly River. By M. L. D'ALBERTIS, C.M.Z.S.*

It is more than a century since New Guinea became a country of great interest to the naturalist, and its avifauna attracted the attention of students and travellers. Yet, up to the present time, we may say that much more has to be done to bring to light all the treasures it possesses. Many attempts have been made to explore the country, and collections obtained by which we may guess at its rich fauna; but difficulties of many kinds have always prevented a thorough exploration. Nevertheless of late years we may congratulate ourselves on some marked results having been attained which we could hardly have expected.

After the earlier Dutch and French explorations, the celebrated Wallace visited Dorey, on the north-west coast, and

* Reprinted from the 'Sydney Mail' of Feb. 24, 1877.

obtained collections and made many observations and discoveries, for which science will always be indebted to him.

In 1872 I paid my first visit to the island on the north coast, and was successful enough to penetrate into the interior, where no white man had been before, and my exertions have been largely beneficial to science.

The track I had found was soon trodden again by Dr. A. B. Meyer, in 1873, and, as every naturalist knows, with splendid results. In 1875 the hunters of Mr. Bruijn and Dr. Beccari visited the same localities, and still found an abundance of novelties; yet I think much more is to be discovered in such a rich country; but no doubt the north-western peninsula is the part of all the great island which is best known. Only very recent explorations have been attempted on the south-eastern coast; and they have been attended with more or less marked results.

In 1875 I set myself to work on that new field, and prepared to explore the land which lies at the foot of Mount Yule. Without speaking of other rich collections I made there, I may mention that I got about 700 skins of birds, representing 186 species, of which a score were new to science, and many others were for the first time met with in New Guinea, while a large proportion belonged to the Australian avifauna both in genera and species. In the same year other explorers followed me to that new field. First, Mr. W. Macleay; a little later, the collectors employed by Mr. O. Stone pushed as far as Port Moresby; and Dr. James succeeded me at Yule Island, where, as it is known, he lost his life by the hands of the natives. Lately Mr. Goldie has been at Port Moresby collecting living plants for an English nursery, and has also succeeded in gathering a small collection of birds.

From all these collections we begin to have an insight into the fauna of the southern part of New Guinea, and materials for study which I have no doubt will afford sufficient data to show the intimate connexion between the Australian and so-called Papuan fauna, as well as precious materials for the

study of the geographical distribution of species on the principle of evolution.

It remained to know something about the fauna of the central part of the large island ; and in 1876, by the liberality of the Government of New South Wales and some gentlemen of this colony, I was enabled to go once more as a pioneer, as I had been at Mount Arfak and at Hall Sound, to find a new track to the heart of this mysterious land, which no doubt will be soon followed by other explorers, to the advancement of science, and probably of commerce.

Although collecting specimens of natural history was not the principal aim of the voyage, still, from the list of the birds collected and observed, we have, I may say, added a new link to the chain which connects the northern and southern avifauna of New Guinea with that of Australia. I hope that the few notes that I may add on some of the more interesting species will be acceptable.

From my list it seems that rapacious birds are scarce in the centre of New Guinea ; but if we consider the difficulty of detecting such birds in their native forests, and when perched on the branches of lofty trees, or when flying above the dense mass of vegetation, we shall consider their scarcity to be rather an apparent than a real one.

Among the few collected, it is worth while to mention a pair of the beautiful and rare *Henicopernis longicauda*, which, although inhabiting the Aru Islands and, I think, also the north-west coast of New Guinea, is still very rare in the museums of Europe.

Among the Parrot family, of which my list is a little richer, I have first to mention the *Dasyptilus pecqueti*, which, judging by the shape of its bill and head, is almost an aberrant form among the family. This bird has been for many years very rare in the collections ; and only one or two skins had reached Europe previous to 1872, when I got four fine specimens on the Arfak Mountains. Subsequently it has also been found by following explorers, but always few in number. It is generally an inhabitant of the mountains ; but it is seen occasionally on the plain, and also very far up the Fly River.

I met with this bird while remaining for two days at the same anchorage. I saw about fifty coming to sleep on a very high tree in the evening, and starting in the morning a little after sunrise ; but the bird is very shy, and for this reason not easy to be killed. The *Cyclopsittacus fuscifrons* is a very small Parrot, one of the smallest, and difficult to find in the dense foliage of the trees ; but it is often brought to notice by its piercing whistle. It is not shy ; and once find the tree on which it feeds, and it is easily secured. It is very similar to an allied species which I discovered at Hall Sound, named by Mr. Selater *Cyclopsitta suavissima*, and resembles it in its habits.

Chalcopsittacus chloropterus is described by Prof. Salvadori as a new species ; but, indeed, I cannot see how this bird is to be distinguished from *C. scintillatus* ; for the distinctive characters pointed out by Salvadori I consider dependent only on the age, and not constant in all individuals of different age and different sex. Many other birds of this family may be added to my list by other explorers ; for I saw many, especially among the *Charmosynæ* ; but as I did not kill them, I do not mention them.

Buceros ruficollis is a common bird all over New Guinea, still I cannot say whether in the interior I saw this species, or another one, which is perhaps intermediate between *B. ruficollis* and the *Buceros* of the Solomon Islands ; for I found some beaks of this bird in the houses of the natives so much smaller, although of adult birds. Therefore I am inclined to believe they may belong to a new species.

Among the Kingfishers there is, according to Salvadori, another new species—*Cyanalcyon stictolæma* ; but I do not think it is a good species, and I believe the differences pointed out by him between this bird and *C. nigrocyanea* only depend on the sex or age of the specimen he had under his consideration. A specimen which I got in the same locality where I had the first one is by no means different from *C. nigrocyanea* of the Aru Islands.

An elegant bird which attracts the attention of the traveller is the *Dendrochelidon mystacea*, from its peculiar shape, and from the length of its wings and its forked tail. It is seen in

the daytime at rest on some high dead tree; and in the evening and in the morning it flies about chasing the insects on which it feeds.

Flycatchers were very scarce; and, indeed, I cannot mention more than the beautiful *Monarcha chrysomelas*, which I had never collected before, and only saw once from New Guinea* in Mr. Stone's collection, and which is found also in the Solomon group. *Campephaga sloetii* is a rare bird in collections; but it seems to be distributed all over New Guinea, as I have found specimens on the Arfak, at Hall Sound, and lately far up the Fly River, and there the most numerous; but I could not get more than one, which I met with in a native's garden, feeding on the small berries of a high tree. Along the banks of the river, or on some gravel-flat of the river's bed, when the water was low, I saw another interesting small bird, which I discovered in the streams of Mount Arfak, in 1872. It is a lively bird, and is often seen giving chase on the wing to insects, on which it lives. It has been named by Salvadori *Monachella saxicolina*. The *Artamus leucogaster* is an Australian bird, but very common also in the eastern and central part of New Guinea. Its abode is on some old trunk projecting in the river's bed. There it is often seen waiting for insects, which it catches in flying, not unlike a Swallow. Near to the mouth of the river I found two little gems of the feathered family, *Nectarinia frenata* and *N. aspasia*. The first one is an Australian and Papuan bird; the second inhabits all New Guinea and many islands east and west of the same island. Perhaps on account of the flowerless season, the Meliphagidæ were scarce in number and species; but it is not improbable that I have found a new genus of this family. Only two species of *Eupetes* had been known for many years as inhabitants of New Guinea. Lately some new ones have been added—one from the west, the other from the east. The last one is also found in the bush up Fly River, and it has been named *Eupetes nigrocrissus* by Salvadori. Other species of this genus will be found in New Guinea; so I think it will not be considered absolutely a

[* The species from New Guinea is distinct—*Monarcha melanonotus*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1877, p. 100.—EDD.]

Malayan form. Only two Pittas, *P. mackloti* and *P. novæ-guinæ*, have been yet recorded among the Papuan birds. Now I may add a third one, which I found for the first time in New Guinea, and killed at Kataw River; but it inhabit also Cape York, and is plentiful on many of the Torres-Straits islands; that is, *Pitta assimilis*. So out of the three Pittas two are found in Australia also.

Large flocks of a *Calornis* were seen on the Alice river hunting after an insect, probably of the *Libellula* tribe, which was so abundant as to cover almost the surface of the river from bank to bank for many miles. They were so plentiful that when seen flying about a little above the water they conveyed to the mind the recollection of a heavy fall of snow. I could not identify this bird. Many other birds were engaged in a similar chase; and I remember a *Graucalus*, the *Gracula dumonti*, the *Merops ornatus*, and a *Eurystomus*, probably *E. crassirostris*. *Gracula dumontii* is, too, a common bird all over New Guinea; but I may mention that I never saw it so plentiful as on the upper part of Fly River.

Another Grakle, which I consider to be new to science, was very scarce, and only four specimens were seen, and two killed. Its description is as follows:—*Male*. Head, neck, and breast rich orange golden colour; throat and sides of the head dark blackish green; abdomen, above and below, black, each feather margined with dark shining green; rump and tail-coverts deep golden orange; belly yellow; under tail-coverts white, tipped with light yellow; wings and tail black; primaries white-spotted; bill, eyes, and feet yellow. The female is very similar to the male. I name this bird in honour of the Hon. John Robertson, Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, *Mino robertsoni**.

Manucodia keraudreni is found in Australia and New Guinea. The specimens from Cape York, once named *M. gouldi*, have been recently regarded as identical; but I have before me specimens from New Guinea and Cape York, and they are at once distinguishable from each other. The speci-

[* Salvadori identifies this new species with *Melanopyrrhus orientalis*, i. e. *Gracula anais orientalis* of Schlegel, Bijdr. iv. p. 52 (Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, v. p. 12).—EDD.]

mens from Cape York are of a uniform dark shining green, while specimens from New Guinea differ, having the wings, tail, and back of a rich shining purplish violet. *Gymnocorvus senex*, a very common bird all over New Guinea, is remarkable for the great differences of its plumage at different ages.

It was to be expected that in the centre of New Guinea many species of Paradise-birds were to be found; but only six species are given in my list, and certainly many others are to be discovered there. The most beautiful of them, no doubt, is the *Seleucides albus*, or Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise, and at the same time one of the rarest. On the upper part of the Fly River I saw it several times crossing the river very slowly; and often in the morning and before sunset it was seen on the top of some high tree, motionless and uttering its mournful note. It is a very suspicious bird, and for this, perhaps, is still rare in museums. It is found also on the north-west coast of New Guinea and Salawatti Island. *Cicinnurus regius* is a too common bird (also of the north coast and Aru Islands) to be spoken of. *Sericulus aureus* is found also all over New Guinea. I saw it on the Arfak Mountains, at Najabui, in the eastern peninsula, and now also up the Fly; but it is a rare and shy bird. Salvadori places this bird close to the *Chlamydodera*, but I cannot see more affinity in this bird with *Chlamydodera* than with *Cicinnurus*; at the same time, however, from its head, bill, wings, and shortness of the tail, I think it nearer to *Cicinnurus* than to the *Chlamydodera*. To say that it has not the same habits as the true Paradise-bird is not of much value; for nearly every species, or at least every genus, has its own habits.

Ptilorhis magnifica is found also in Australia and on the west coast of New Guinea and Salwatti. *Paradisea raggiana*, discovered at Orangerie Bay in 1873, by myself, extends its habitat up to the centre of New Guinea, and seems to be common enough; its plumes are used by the natives as head-dresses all over the country where the bird is found. Another bird, very closely allied to the last mentioned, is *Paradisea apoda*, or a new species resembling it very much. If admitted to be *P. apoda*, is it proper to say that it is the first

time this bird has been met with in New Guinea, and that it was believed to be an inhabitant of the Aru Islands only. The fact of two species so alike living in the same locality is of some interest, and suggests some remarks. There are now four species of the known genus *Paradisea*—viz. *P. apoda*, *P. papuana*, *P. rubra*, and *P. raggiana*. The former two resemble each other very closely in the long yellow plumes at the side of the breast, while the last two resemble each other in the red colour of the same plumes, but differ in the two middle tail-feathers &c. So far as we know, *P. apoda* inhabits the Aru Islands and the mainland of New Guinea, south of the Charles-Louis Mountains; *Paradisea papuana*, the west to 131° long. E., and north of the above-mentioned range, so far as 141° long. E., and other islands north of New Guinea. The two red species, on the other hand, are living very far from each other; the *P. rubra* seems confined to Waigiou Island, and *P. raggiana* to the centre and eastern peninsula of New Guinea. But it is not improbable that *P. rubra* also may be found some day in New Guinea.

From the first insight we have of the fauna of Southern New Guinea, we have learned how in this part of the country Australian forms, genera, and species are abundant, and are generally found in preference to allied species now inhabiting the north-western coast; and I think that what applies to the animals will be also found in a less degree to apply to the plants. So we find a larger number of species inhabiting North Australia, Aru Islands, and New Guinea, because the narrow sea which separates the three countries may be easily crossed even by birds of not very great power in the wings.

So far as I can guess from my last visit to the central part of New Guinea, as well as from some fossils there collected, I think that all the flat land from the coast of Torres Strait up, perhaps, to the foot of the mountains has been submerged, and raised again at a not very distant time, and probably when the Aru Islands and Australia were separated from New Guinea. Plants and animals which, during the time of subsidence, could live on the mountains, at the new rising of the land descended to populate it again, more or less modified; and

others immigrated from the nearest land, and especially from Australia, and established themselves there, probably undergoing some modifications, but at all events retaining much of the characters of the primitive type. And while the species inhabiting the lowlands on both sides of the mountains differ much, we find that those inhabiting the mountains are almost invariably the same on both sides, no matter what the difference of latitude or longitude may be. This may be explained; for the alpine forms were not subjected to sensible change of temperature, soil, &c., in their emigration, so long as they kept to the mountains; on the other hand, the forms of the plain cannot cross the high mountains without modification.

The geological union of Australia, the Aru Islands, and New Guinea in a recent time is to me a certainty; and I cannot consider the granitic peaks of Torres Straits but as the links of the chain which for a time joined Australia to New Guinea. Mount-Ernest Island, The Brothers, and Tawan Island, and all the other islands of Torres Straits, are faithful witnesses to this. When the fauna and flora of New Guinea and North Australia are better known and compared, especially reptiles, small mammals, freshwater fish, and other small animals of limited power for emigration, the fact will be proved. Although I propose to confine myself to the subject of birds, I cannot refrain from mentioning the existence of an *Echidna* in New Guinea. Very far up the Fly River I found in the natives' houses, carefully preserved, the quills of an *Echidna*, and also many arrows whose barbs are made with such quills. It is within my knowledge that the Rev. Mr. Lawes obtained at Port Moresby a young animal from the natives, which was described to me as like a *Platypus*; but I am inclined to believe it was a young *Echidna**. The importance of such a discovery needs no comment.

Among the Pigeon family I may mention *Carpophaga spilorhoa*, *C. zoeæ*, *C. muellerii*, *Megoloprepia assimilis*, *Ptilo-*

* The above had been written when I received from Italy the description of *Tachyglossus (Echidna) bruijnii* (W. Peters and Doria), founded on a portion of a skull found on the Arfak Mountains.

nopus superbus, *P. ionozonus*, *P. coronulatus*, *P. aurantiifrons*, and *Ptilonopus nanus*, which for the most part inhabit New Guinea, Aru Islands, and North Australia. A bird strictly Papuan, one of the largest of this family, is the Crested Pigeon, or *Goura*, of which four species are known, viz.—*G. victoriæ*, *G. coronata*, *G. albertisi*, and *G. sclateri*, although the former has not been yet found on the Papuan continent. *G. coronata* is found on the north-west, and *G. albertisi* on the eastern peninsulas, and *G. sclateri* in the central part of New Guinea, where I discovered it during my first visit to the Fly. During my second trip I found it also at Kataw River. If in the Papuan forest lives this gigantic form of the family, there we also find a dwarf in the rare and pretty *Ptilonopus nanus*. *Dendrocygna guttata*, *D. vagans*, *Nettapus pulchellus*, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*, *Hæmatopus longirostris*, *Mycteria australis*, and *Tachypetes prion*, &c. are all birds common to the Aru Islands and Australia, and only lately added to the list of New-Guinea birds. I wish I could give the specific name of a beautiful Cassowary, of which I possess a skin and skeleton; but so many species of this bird have been lately described, that I do not venture to say to which it belongs, though I am inclined to think it may be a *Casuaris australis**.

XXXII.—Notices of Recent Publications.

[Continued from p. 249.]

30. Baldwin's 'Large and Small Game of Bengal.'

[The Large and Small Game of Bengal and the North-western Provinces of India. By Captain J. H. Baldwin, F.G.S. 8vo. London: Henry S. King and Co.]

The larger portion of the 400 pages which compose this handsome volume is devoted to the various Mammals which in India attract the sportsman's first notice; but some 150

* [It is more probably the species noticed by Sclater (P. Z. S. 1875, p. 86) as *C. beccarii*, but which, we believe, Prof. Salvadori considers not to be identical with *C. beccarii* of the Aru Islands.—EDD.]

D'Albertis, Luigi Maria. 1877. "Notes on some birds collected during the Exploration of the Fly River." *Ibis* 1877, 363–372.

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