

J. Green del et lith.

Mintern Bros. imp.

Figs 1-3. *Chenalopex sirabensis*. Figs. 4-7. *Tribonyx roberti*.

Fig 8. *Plotus nanus*

task of excavating very arduous, and the work was frequently interrupted for days at a time through the growing hostility of the natives. Dr. Forsyth Major and his companion, M. Robert, are therefore the more to be congratulated that, under such unfavourable conditions, they have added so much to our knowledge of the extinct fauna of Central Madagascar.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE VIII.

Remains of *Centronis majori* (p. 344).

- Fig. 1. Right tibio-tarsus, from front (figured in two halves).
2. Right tibio-tarsus, distal articulation.
3. Right femur, from front.
4. Right metatarsus, from front.
5. Left coracoid, upper end.
6. Left scapula.
7. Right metacarpus, proximal portion.

All the figures are of the natural size, and, with the exception of the metatarsus, are drawn from the type specimens. The dotted outlines are drawn from more perfect bones.

PLATE IX.

- Fig. 1. Skull of *Chenalopex sirabensis* (p. 355).
2. Metacarpus of ditto.
3. Metatarsus of ditto.
4. *Tribonyx roberti* (p. 356). Pelvis, from above.
5. Ditto. Pelvis, from side.
6. ? Ditto. Left tibio-tarsus.
7. ? Ditto. Left femur.
8. *Plotus nanus* (p. 358). Left humerus.

All the figures are of the natural size. In figs. 4 and 5 the dotted outlines are drawn from the opposite side.

XXVII.—*On Changes of Plumage in some of the Typical Weaver-birds.* By A. G. BUTLER, Ph.D.

ABOUT the year 1888 I purchased two pairs of the so-called Red-billed Weaver-bird (*Quelea quelea*) and a male of Russ's Weaver (*Quelea russi*), and turned them out together in one

of my large aviaries, where they have regularly come into plumage year after year, without any change worth recording, until the early summer of 1896, when one of my males of *Q. quelea* appeared in the breeding-plumage of *Q. russi**. I wrote to Mr. Abrahams respecting this unexpected metamorphosis, asking whether he had ever noticed a parallel case, and he replied saying that he would take an early opportunity of talking the matter over with me. He evidently imagined that I must have been mistaken.

It will be seen, on reference to my 'Foreign Finches in Captivity,' that, writing in 1895, I speak of a male of *Q. russi* quarrelling with cocks of *Q. quelea* (*vide* p. 316), and from that time to the present I have added no Weavers to that aviary. There can therefore be no possibility of my having made a mistake.

When the two "species" are compared, it will be seen that the chief difference between them consists in the colouring of the mask on the face, which is black in *Q. quelea* and buffish in *Q. russi*. The two forms come mixed together in the same consignments from Africa, and doubtless are caught together. It would therefore seem that *Q. russi* is a mere partial albinism, due to weakening of the pigment-cells.

In the autumn of 1895 I purchased a number of examples of *Pyromelana* out of colour, some of which, however, were showing the first indications of change of plumage; among them were five males of *P. franciscana* and six of *P. afra*. All these birds continued to develop their nuptial plumage up to the first frosts, when the change was arrested and the bright colouring gradually receded from the feathers, so that in about six weeks the birds had all resumed their winter plumage.

Several views have been put forward to account for the change of plumage in birds; but when the colouring gradually comes and again recedes from the same feathers, the

* This bird died during its change into summer plumage, in April of the present year; it had already acquired for the second time the characteristics of Russ's Weaver. In *Quelea* this change is effected by a complete moult.

casting of a disguising film will not account for the second operation.

In *Pyromelana* the change of plumage is very slow; the feathers daily gain in intensity, the pale buff of the underparts getting scarcely perceptibly deeper, until at length the velvet-black and fiery orange in *P. franciscana* appear as mere spots or shaft-streaks, which gradually expand fanwise towards the outer fringes of the feathers. This spotting, however, is very uneven, some feathers being developed in advance of others, so as to give the bird a very patchy appearance. In the bright yellow and black plumage of *P. afra* this is even more noticeable.

At the change of plumage the flank-feathers and upper tail-coverts are moulted out, being replaced by long soft feathers, which droop over and almost hide the tail: but none of the feathers of the head, back, breast, and belly are lost; they simply undergo a gradual change of colour.

If it is possible, and we know that it is, for the plumage of birds to be seriously affected after death, there is no reason for asserting that a perfect feather possesses no vitality, and is therefore incapable of change of colour.

Perhaps one of the most marked alterations in coloration after death which I have noticed is that which takes place on the breast of the male Gouldian Finch (*Poephila mirabilis*). In life the breast is vivid ultramarine-blue or very bright pansy-blue; after death the blue gradually fades out of the feathers, leaving them of a dull lilac.

XXVIII.—*On the Nesting of Cassicus persicus, Cassidix oryzivora, Gymnomystax melanicterus, and Todirostrum maculatum.* By Dr. EMIL A. GOELDI, C.M.Z.S., Director of the Museum in Pará.*

1. CASSICUS PERSICUS and CASSIDIX ORYZIVORA.

The nests of most Brazilian birds are by no means easily

* [For a previous article on a similar subject by Dr. Goeldi, see 'Ibis,' 1896, p. 299, and observe that the editorial footnote at the commencement of that article is intended to refer to Koenig-Warthausen in J. f. O. 1868, and *not* to Dr. Goeldi's excellent notes.—EDD.]

to be found, and travellers who do not devote much time to the subject will generally see very little of the birds' breeding-habits. There are, however, exceptions, and one of these is offered by *Cassicus persicus*. This is by far the most predominant Cassique in Lower Amazonia and Guiana, and colonies of it, consisting of a more or less considerable number of pendent nests dangling on the branch-ends of the trees, are to be seen everywhere, and are sure to strike even the most casual tourist's attention on board the Amazonian steamers. Here, in Pará, *Cassicus persicus* is a daily visitor in every large orchard, and though the suburb of Nazareth is to-day much more densely inhabited than it was when Mr. Wallace wrote his most interesting book, I know of a colony of "Japiims" with a dozen nests on a high tree near the course of two of the most frequented roads of this suburb, and only some 60 steps distant from our museum.

The bag-nests of *Cassicus persicus* are, in comparison with those of *Ostinops decumanus*, shorter and more cylindrical. Two specimens brought by me from Amapá in 1895 are only from 40 to 42 cm. long and 12 cm. wide in the upper part, and 15 cm. in width in the lower part. The entrance-hole is stirrup-shaped and situated on the upper portion. It measures 15 cm. in length and about 10 cm. in breadth.

The material of these bag-nests consists exclusively of dry fibres of the assaý-palm-tree-leaves (*Euterpe oleracea*), which are woven by the bird into a fabric of very great strength, so that it is almost impossible to tear it. The fact that in Amazonia the material usually employed consists of assaý-leaves is very well known to everybody in the country. This fact becomes specially interesting to naturalists who remember that the range of *Cassicus persicus* reaches southward to Bahia, *i. e.* into a region where the assaý-palm does not grow. We know, from the description given by Prince Maximilian zu Wied-Neuwied (Beitr. iii. p. 1239), that the material employed by this bird in the coast-zone of Bahia consists of threads of *Tillandsia* ("Barba de velho") and of similar *Bromelia*-fibres. This statement agrees entirely with my observations in Southern Brazil as regards

Ostinops decumanus and *Cassicus hæmorrhous*. *Tillandsia*-threads are softer and of a greyish colour, while fibres of assaý-leaves are more rigid and of a straw-colour—so that *Cassicus*-nests of unknown origin may be at any time certainly recognized by their materials as to whether they come from the southern or from the northern parts of Brazil. The life and growth of these *Tillandsia*-fibres are not always interrupted by their employment in the nests. I have often observed instances of these Bromelias growing under such circumstances.

The eggs of *Cassicus persicus* were not obtained by Prince zu Wied. Whether they have been more recently procured I am not able to say from the literature at my disposal. They are of a very pale yellow-reddish colour, almost regularly covered with pale neutral-tint signs and points in two layers of different intensity. The measurements of two Guianan eggs are:—(1) Long. axis 25·5 mm., transv. axis 19 mm.; (2) long. axis 27·5 mm., transv. axis 18 mm.

In a letter dated Sept. 12th, 1896, Mr. Sclater writes to me:—"We have been recently informed that *Cassidix oryzivora* is parasitic on *Cassicus persicus*—like *Molothrus*. Do you know anything about this matter?" Now I really know something about this question, and have even published some remarks concerning it some years ago*.

In Southern Brazil it is well known that *Molothrus bona-riensis* lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, especially in that of *Zonotrichia pileata*. Its larger relative (*Cassidix oryzivora*) lays its eggs in the nests of birds of similar proportions to itself, especially in those of *Ostinops decumanus*, and probably also in those of *Cassicus hæmorrhous*. As regards *Ostinops*, there is absolutely no doubt; I have

* In my little book 'Aves do Brazil' (Rio de Janeiro), written in 1892 and printed in 1894—a book which has been condemned by 'Natural Science' as "being of no value as a contribution to science." If, however, the editors of that periodical would give themselves the trouble to study it a little more from the biological standpoint, and not merely through anatomical and systematical spectacles, they would, perhaps, be able to record a somewhat more favourable opinion of it.—E. A. G.

verified it myself, and in my collection of birds of the Serras-
des-Órgãos Mountains, Rio de Janeiro, are specimens of the
eggs of *Cassidix* taken with my own hands out of nests of
the *Ostinops*. I have seen the eggs of both together in one
nest, and have several times reared young ones of the
Cassidix along with their yellow-tailed brethren. The little
Molothrus has, besides some others, the popular name
“Parasita”; *Cassidix oryzivora* is called “Melro” in Rio
de Janeiro, in Northern Brazil “Graúna” (an abbreviation
of the Tupí words “guíra-úna” = black-bird)*.

When I arrived in Pará, I was surprised at being told by
several persons that the “Graúna” has the habit of laying
its eggs in the nest of the “Japiim” (= *Cassicus persicus*).
I had thus an interesting confirmation of my own observations
in Rio de Janeiro, and have come to the conclusion that
Cassidix oryzivora is parasitic everywhere, choosing in North
and South Brazil for its eggs the nests of the respective *Cassi-*
cine species, the size of which agrees best with its own. There
is thus in *Cassidix oryzivora* a remarkable example of the
adaptation of a bird with cuckoo-habits to different local
faunistic relations, and a nice parallel to the phenomenon
offered by *Cassicus persicus*, which changes its nesting-
material in accordance with the change of plants in different
latitudes †.

I may add that *Cassicus persicus* had eggs when we were
in Connaný, between October 11th and 26th, 1895, and that

* As regards popular names much care is always necessary. The
same name—“Graúna,” for example—is used in Southern Brazil for
Aphobus chopi and on the island of Marajó for *Amblycercus solitarius*.—
E. A. G.

† Just as the material used by *Cassicus persicus* for its nest in Bahia
(and southwards) is different from that used by the same bird in Pará,
the material employed by *Ostinops decumanus* in these two countries
respectively is also different. I have stated that in Southern Brazil
Ostinops uses exclusively the “Barba de velho” (*Tillandsia usneoides*),
and that these southern nests are of a greyish colour. On the Amazon
the material employed by this bird is composed of—(1) a black hairy
substance, very like horsehair or delicate and elongated roots [which
botanical researches in the Pará Museum prove to be a most interesting
lichen, but of which it is not yet possible to ascertain the exact

we met with young birds in the nests during our residence in Amapá from the 26th October to 11th November. The breeding-period in Southern Guiana agrees with that in Pará. We know from the Prince zu Wied (*op. cit.* p. 1240) that he generally observed the young birds in the nests found by him on the Rio Belmonte, Bahia, towards the end of December. A slightly earlier breeding-time in the northern regions compared with the southern Brazilian States seems to me to be a generally prevailing phenomenon, of which I have a number of instances.

2. GYMNOMYSTAX MELANICTERUS.

The splendid yellow-and-black-coloured, Oriole-like Icterid, *Gymnomystax melanicterus*, called "Aritaná" here in Lower Amazonia, is a real ornament of the campos-region of Marajó and Southern Guiana wherever these districts are traversed by rivers. Damp meadows and muddy shores, alternately covered and uncovered by the tides, are the favourite resorts of this interesting bird of charming appearance. It is of confident demeanour and fond of human residences, breeding regularly in the immediate vicinity of the fazendas. In its character it reminds me much more of the "Vira-bostas" (*Molothrus*) than of the genuine Trupials and Cassiques; it frequents cattle-settlements, is often engaged on the ground with cattle-dung, and walks about there for quarters of an hour together in the manner of the European Starling. I have been recently told that its range increases with the extension of cattle-breeding, and that it makes its appearance along with cattle in regions where it has not been seen before, *e. g.* in the Município de Mazagão, in the north channel of the Amazonian estuary. When flying it calls *wrég-krég*; when

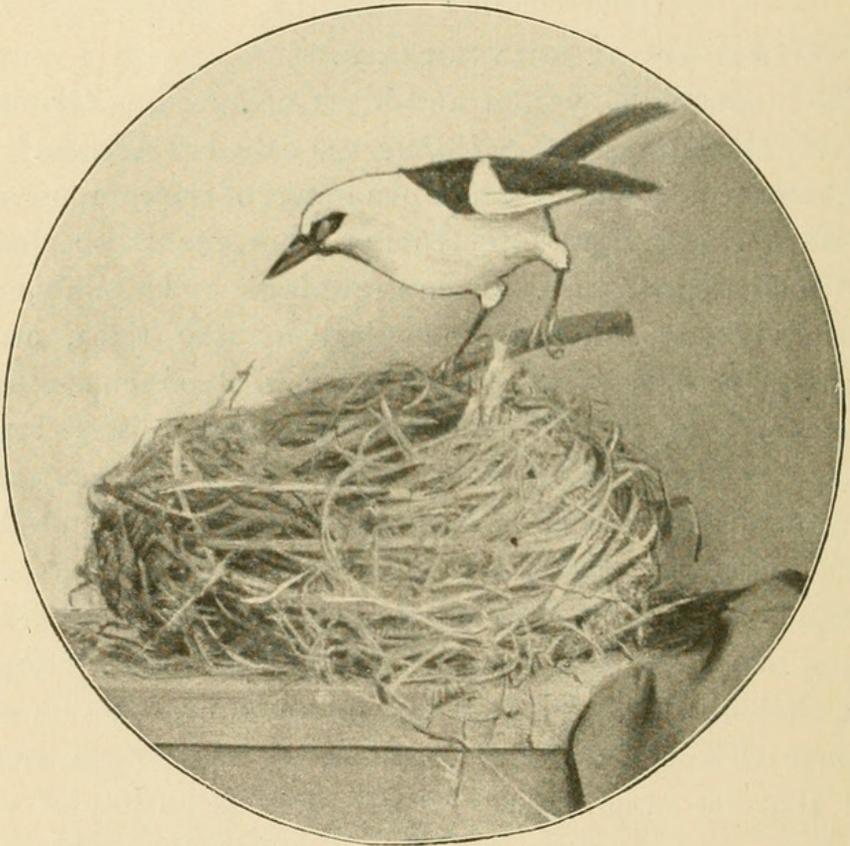
systematic name]; (2) of the dry and tender roots of certain orchids of a yellowish colour.

As the proportion of both substances is almost as two to one, and the black root-like lichen is largely predominant, the general aspect of these northern nest-bags is of a *blackish* colour, contrasting in a striking manner with the grayish *Tillandsia*-structures of Southern Brazil.

in good humour and perched near its nest it emits a song like *tíng-tíng-wrég-wrég-gri-gri*, and is, in a few words, a bird not easily to be overlooked by a visitor to a Marajó cattle-settlement, making itself known as well by its appearance as by its voice.

Mr. Sclater writes in vol. xi. of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum' (p. 361):—"This remarkable form has been often placed with the *Agelæinæ*. But the slightly

Fig. 1.



Nest of *Gymnomystax melanicterus*.

decurved culmen and lineiform mesorhinium justify us, I think, in removing it to the *Icterinæ*, with which it agrees in style of plumage, as it does also, I believe, in habits and mode of nesting." As I could not find anything published about the mode of nesting of *Gymnomystax*, and as Mr. Sclater has also kindly informed me of the absence of any authentic observations on the subject, I have made all possible efforts to clear up the missing link.

Frankly speaking, I had for a long time the same opinion as to the correct position of *Gymnomystax* as is indicated above. But I became somewhat doubtful when I noticed the Starling- or *Molothrus*-like mode of life, and the results of my observations of the last two years as to the breeding of this bird indicate an aberrant and rather isolated position of *Gymnomystax* in the Icterine group.

I have two nests of the "Aritaná," both from the island of Marajó. The first is a present from a friend, and was taken in December 1895 on his extensive cattle-settlements; the second I took myself during a recent journey to the same locality, Cabo Magoary, in August and September, 1896. The photograph of the first nest (fig. 1, p. 366) will give a good idea of it.

These nests are open and porringer-shaped, similar to those of certain Thrushes, and quite different from the bag-nests of *Ostinops* and *Cassicus*, so far as I know them, and from other constructions of the Icterinæ that we see figured in many ornithological works. The material consists of grass-leaves (whole and longitudinally split), slender roots, and fragments of small climbing plants*. There is no softer lining.

The second nest, taken by myself at Fazenda Livramento, was situated in the fork of a branch and well hidden in the foliage of the crown of a "morcegeira-" tree (*Andira* sp. inc.), some 8 or 10 m. above the ground. The tree was distant not more than, perhaps, some 30 steps from the central buildings of the above-mentioned fazenda, in the open farm-yard, and in the midst of a considerable and constant crowd of men, horses, and cattle. Nevertheless the "Aritaná" is very circumspect in the vicinity of its breeding-tree, and, when it finds itself observed, does not readily approach. The discovery

* The slender roots with exquisite nodules, which can be perfectly perceived on the photograph, and play an important part in this nest, are those of an interesting aquatic plant, *Marsilia polycarpa*, Hooker et Grev., the nodules being the macro-sporangia. The climbing plant used in both nests is one of the Cucurbitaceæ. I am indebted for this information to my colleague, Dr. J. Huber, the Botanist of the Pará Museum.—E. A. G.

of this nest was only effected by patiently waiting for some hours in a hidden corner.

As regards the eggs of *Gymnomystax*, I have been somewhat unfortunate. The eggs which were sent to me together with the first nest arrived broken and do not allow of measurements. The fragments, however, show a bluish-white surface, with large, dark, irregular spots; they give me the idea of some resemblance to a smaller version of the egg figured as that of *Icterus cristatus* by Thienemann (Abbildungen von Vogeleiern, pl. xxxvii. fig. 7). The second nest contained on the day of my arrival at Livramento (August 28th) three naked young birds, which I did not interfere with. On my return to the locality a fortnight after, I found the nest empty and the birds gone.

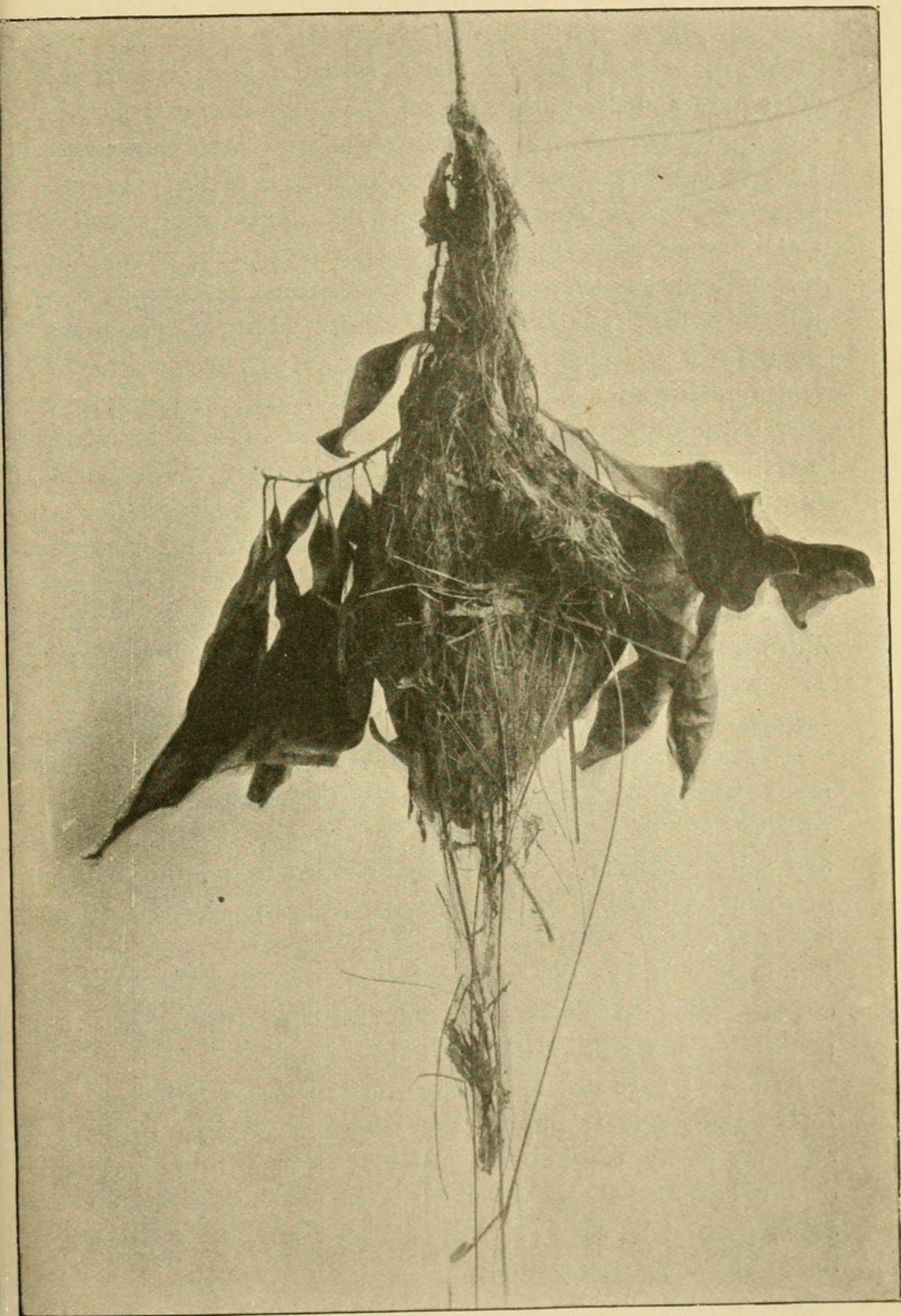
+ 3. *TODIROSTRUM MACULATUM*.

It seems that since the time of Prince Maximilian zu Wied nobody has written about the breeding-habits of any member of the genus *Todirostrum*, which belongs to the smaller forms of the Tyrannine subfamily Platyrhynchinae. The Prince writes (Beitr. iii. p. 967) of the nest of *T. poliocephalum*:—"Ein solches Nest, welches wir in der Nähe des Flusses Parahypa in einem hohen *Gamelera*-Baume (*Ficus*) fanden,—man versicherte mich, es gehöre diesem Vogel an,—war von Baum- und Pflanzenwolle erbaut, von länglich-kugelicher Gestalt, oben über geschlossen, und vorn mit einer sehr kleinen Oeffnung zum Eingange des Vogels versehen; es wird in meinen Abbildungen zur Naturgeschichte Brasiliens mitgetheilt werden"*.

Todirostrum maculatum—a common bird, and a daily guest in the gardens of Pará—is well known by the people under the trivial name of "Ferreirinho" (little smith). There is almost no hour of the day when we do not hear the characteristic song of this little bird, which is ever busy among the shady foliage of the fruit-trees. Its song may be imitated by the syllables *tsi-tsiridi-tsiridi-tsi-tsi*, and may at the same time be compared to the sound produced by winding up a watch.

* It seems that this promise remained unaccomplished, as in my copy of the 'Abbildungen' there is no plate referring to the nest in question.—E. A. G.

Fig. 2.



Nest of *Todiostrostrum maculatum*.

In February, 1896, I discovered a nest in our museum garden, only some ten steps from the building. It was near the end of a short branch of an "abin"-tree (*Lucuma caimito*), at a height of about seven metres, rather well hidden, and more in the central than in the outer part of the crown of the tree. The nest, of which the photograph (fig. 2, p. 369) gives an adequate idea, is of bag-like construction, with a lateral entrance-hole. This hole, which is small and circular, is provided with a protecting roof. The material consists essentially of fibres of palm-tree leaves (coconut and "inaja") and particles of straw. Many of these fibres hang down in a negligent manner to an extent equal to the length of the nest, which, in comparison with the diminutive bird (certainly one of the smallest forms of the Tyrannidæ), must be called a very large one. The upper part, with the connection to the branch, is produced into a long conical horn.

Observing that the "Ferreirinho" was breeding, I resolved to take the nest and its contents on February 22. I obtained male, female, and eggs. These eggs, two in number, were still nearly fresh. They measured:—(1) 16 mm. long. axis, 11·5 mm. transv. axis; (2) 16·5 mm. long. axis, 11·5 mm. transv. axis. The point of section of the two axes for both eggs was 6 mm. distant from the blunt pole. The ground-colour is a pure white, but, having a large number of delicate and small rosy points, becomes of a pale rosy tinge. They are frail and minute objects, but well proportioned to the dimensions of the graceful little bird, a genuine Liliputian Tyrant, with a white iris.

I suppose it was the second laying, and that the former, corresponding to the months September to November, had probably escaped my attention.

In Pará I have never seen any other species of *Todirostrum* than *T. maculatum*; but on the island of Marajó I found another, easily distinguishable from being entirely yellow on the lower surface. I believe it to be *Todirostrum cinereum*, figured by Spix (Av. Brasil. pl. ix. fig. 2) under the name *Todus melanocephalus*.

October, 1896.

XXIX.—*Diagnoses of Thirty-six new or little-known Birds from British New Guinea.* By C. W. DE VIS.

THE birds which I propose to describe are from the collections made under the leadership of Sir William Macgregor by Mr. A. Giulianetti, during his late journey across British New Guinea, from the Mambare River to the Vanapa River. The passages in the descriptions within inverted commas are transcripts, with here and there slight modifications, of Mr. Giulianetti's notes on the labels.

An enumeration of all the species occurring in the general collection is reserved for an appendix to the Annual Report to the Queensland Parliament on British New Guinea for the present year*.

Fam. PSITTACIDÆ.

1. NEOPSITTACUS VIRIDICEPS, sp. nov.

Body above, chin, and throat rich dark green, with a very feeble brown tint on the occiput and nape, and with scarcely perceptible paler shaft-streaks; ear-coverts mostly stained

* Count Salvadori has kindly sent us the following translation of a letter addressed to him by Sign. Giulianetti concerning this remarkable expedition:—

“I have just come back from an expedition into the interior of S.E. New Guinea. I passed the months of September and October and part of November on Mount Scratchley. At my camp, at 12,200 feet, the birds were very numerous, and many belonged to species which I had never seen near the coast. I obtained, among others, a Woodcock, a Snipe, and two Ducks. There was a Blackbird very common, and also a kind of *Anthus*.

“On the 6th of September I killed two specimens of an apparently new Bird of Paradise; it has the general plumage black and eight of the remiges yellow. Round the eyes there is a naked caruncle as large as a twopenny-piece, of an orange-yellow colour. The bill is similar to that of *Astrarchia*, but narrower and more pointed. [Evidently the new Bird of Paradise described by Mr. De Vis as *Macgregoria pulchra*, Ibis, 1897, p. 251, pl. vii.] I found also a *Parotia*, with the frontal star not white, but coloured like the rest of the feathers of the body; only a few small feathers over the nostrils are yellow. [See *Parotia helenæ*, below, p. 390.] I obtained also specimens of the genera *Epimachus*, *Astrarchia*, *Diphylodes*, and of a *Paradisea* allied to *P. raggiana*, but different, being smaller

with red and streaked with yellow; middle rectrices dark green to tip, laterals rather paler and very narrowly edged with yellow round the tip, basal three-fourths of their inner webs red, abruptly defined from the green beyond; breast and middle of abdomen red; flanks and sides of breast pure green, but paler than the throat; under tail-coverts pale green, covering the orange-red bases; metacarpal edge green; under wing-coverts, lesser series as the breast, greater series and inner webs of remiges for basal two-thirds rather paler and duller red; wing beneath deep fuscous; extreme outer edge of outer and inner edge of inner primaries very narrowly edged with yellow: "iris light red; beak orange, yellow at tip and beneath; feet grey." Length 178 mm., wing 100, tail 95, bill 13, tarsus 11.

"Female: Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200 feet, Oct. 5th, 1896; contents of stomach, fruits."

The green and practically uniform head, the well-defined area of red on the lateral rectrices, the uniform middle rectrices, and the almost entire absence of yellow on the under surface of the tail, render this bird quite distinct from *N. muschenbroeki*, Rosenb. On the occiput there is an unpaired spot of orange feathers, no doubt a sport.

Fam. FALCONIDÆ.

2. ACCIPITER ERYTHRAUCHEN, Gray.

Young male. Above fuscous brown slightly washed with grey, all the feathers with rufous edges, which increase in

and having the feathers of the back greyish yellow. Altogether I collected 220 birds; but I was ill for some time and suffered for want of food, and for a long time I remained with only a single native with me. I visited a village on Mount Scratchley, and was well received by the natives. Next April I propose to penetrate again into the interior and to put my camp on Mount Albert Edward, and after having collected on the high plateaux of the mountain I mean to make excursions in the valleys on the different sides. If I succeed in my projects, I feel confident that I shall find new Birds of Paradise, as it seems that the different species are very locally distributed.

"The collection acquired during my last expedition has already been sent to Brisbane."

width and brightness caudad; some of the feathers of the hind neck with their white bases apparent, others passing into a chestnut-brown to form an incipient collar; edges and tips of secondaries and tips of inner primaries rufous; tail fuscous grey, with several (twelve) fuscous bars on the inner webs of the quills, the tips of the quills rufous, interspaces pale fawn on inner half of inner web; chin, throat, and upper breast isabelline grey, with longitudinal streaks, narrow on chin and throat, broader on upper breast; lower breast washed with rufous and its streaks rufous brown; abdomen and under tail-coverts very pale rufous, with rufous streaks; thighs uniform rufous; side of throat isabel-grey, with broad fuscous streaks; cheeks similar; ear-coverts and a spot behind upper angle of eye fuscous brown, the latter with a rufous line above it; under wing-coverts pale rufous, with rhomboidal fuscous spots in the centres; inner webs of remiges pale cinnamon; flanks buffy white, with broad rufous-brown bars; tail beneath grey: "iris dull yellow; beak black; feet light yellow." Length 280 mm., wing 176, tail 145, tarsus 45, culmen from base of cere 12.5.

"Neneba, Mt. Scratchley, at 4000 feet, Nov. 11th, 1896."

In colouring this bird seems to be very like the unknown young of *A. erythrauchen*, to which I refer it.

3. *CIRCUS*, sp. inc.

Young male. Above fuscous brown, with broad rufous edges, upper tail-coverts uniform; head and neck black; tail above fuscous, with several (twelve) narrow bars, beneath paler, with lighter bars paling to white at base; beneath white; pectorals with broad rufous edges, shaft-streaks fuscous, gradually widening from chin to lower breast, and breaking up into two broad bars on abdomen and under tail-coverts; cheeks white, with broad blackish streaks; wing-coverts above and below and metacarpal edge rufous, with sagittate fuscous centres; remiges with white bars (nine) on inner web; thighs white, stained with rufous and barred with black: "iris yellow; beak grey, point black, cere yellow-green; feet yellow." Length 460 mm., wing 288, tail 245, culmen 25, tarsus 70.

“Neneba, Nov. 1st, 1896 ; contents of stomach, birds. Native name ‘Kigo.’”

From the proportions of this young Harrier we have reason to refrain from uniting it to *C. spilothorax*, Salvad. & d’Alb. ; it is still more difficult to identify it with *C. maillardi*, Verr., *C. wolfi*, Gurn., or any other described species, but until the juvenile state of *C. spilothorax* is more certainly ascertained it is prudent to leave the identity of the present bird an open question. The fourth primary is decidedly the longest, and the fifth is notched on the base of the outer web.

Fam. MUSCICAPIDÆ.

4. MONARCHA DIVAGA, sp. nov.

General colour brown-black ; feathers of head squamate, with brilliant steel-blue lustre ; back, upper tail-coverts, edges of median rectrices, scapulars, wing-coverts, edges of inner remiges, side of head, and a broad band across the upper breast with duller steel-blue reflections ; under surface of wing and tail paler : “iris brown ; bill and feet black.” Length 215 mm., wing 115, tail 110, culmen 24, tarsus 18.

“Female : Boirave, July 14th, 1896 ; contents of stomach, insects. Native name ‘Divaga.’”

In this bird the rictal bristles are very strong and reach to the tip of the bill, and the edges of both mandibles are obtusely serrated.

5. RHIPIDURA NIGRIFRONS, sp. nov.

Above bluish ash-grey ; front (broadly), a broad supra-ciliary band curving over ear-coverts, face, chin, and throat jet-black, with a faint metallic lustre ; a line from behind the eye, separating the black throat from the grey nape, and all beneath white ; median wing- and primary-coverts with white tips, forming two bars across the wing ; upper tail-coverts and tail black ; four outer rectrices on each side with white tips graduated in extent ; wing above dark brown, the quills narrowly edged with bluish grey ; metacarpal edge and adjacent under wing-coverts fuscous, rest of the coverts

white, with fuscous bases; under surface of wing brown, of tail fuscous: "iris brown; beak black; feet grey." Length 163 mm., tail 83, wing 76, culmen 10, tarsus 17.

"Male: (locality not given) July 7th, 1896; contents of stomach, insects."

This bird seems to have its nearest ally in the New-Hebridean species *R. melanolema*, but the differences between the two are sufficiently obvious.

6. *RHIPIDURA ALBICAUDA*, sp. nov.

Above, head and neck rufous brown; back, rump, and upper tail-coverts chestnut; face, ear-coverts, and upper throat greyish brown, becoming fawn on the lower throat, breast, and abdomen; lower abdomen, crissals, and under tail-coverts chestnut; inner greater and primary wing-coverts rufous, with brighter rufous tips; wing fuscous brown, with deep rufous edges; tail sordid white, with white shafts; metacarpal edge rufous: beak black, lower mandible pale horn with dark tip; legs and feet pale horn. Length 157 mm., wing 68, tail 88, culmen 6.5, tarsus 22.

The description is from a spirit-specimen. When wet the edges of the rectrices are on the upper surface pale sienna-brown to a greater or lesser extent, the medians showing little more than the shaft white; traces of this brown remain on the tips when dry.

7. *RHIPIDURA OREAS*, sp. nov.

Somewhat resembling *R. maculipectus*, but smaller, with both upper and under surface grey and a feebler bill. General colour above and below grey washed with brown; above uniform; wings and coverts dark brown, two or three of the median and all of the greater series with small white tips; tail fuscous brown, strongly rounded, two outer rectrices tipped with white, the outermost largely, the penultimate very narrowly; front and face black; lores, eyebrow, upper ear-coverts, chin, upper throat, and a patch behind lower coverts white; lower breast and abdomen whity brown, some feathers on upper breast with large white tips; under wing-coverts fuscous, with large tips of greyish white;

wing beneath ashy brown, edges of inner webs more ashy : upper mandible dark brown, lower pale, with dark tip ; legs and feet dark brown. Length 145 mm., wing 77, tail 92, culmen 12, tarsus 17.

Described from a spirit-specimen.

8. *PETRÆCA BIVITTATA*, sp. nov.

Above dull dark grey, on the forehead a large silky-white spot ; wings dark brown, tips of quills edged with grey ; inner secondaries and tertiaries, especially the last tertial, edged with greyish white on the apical half of the outer web, forming an obscure cross-band ; inner primaries with a white spot near the base, forming a second oblique band ; primary-coverts with a broad white band across their centres ; beneath down to upper breast smoky grey, rest of under surface white ; thighs smoky brown ; metacarpal edge, under wing-coverts, and axillaries white : "iris brown ; beak black ; feet corneous." Length 122 mm., wing 71, tail 50, culmen 7, tarsus 14.5.

"Female : Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200 feet, Oct. 5th, 1896 ; contents of stomach, insects."

9. *PÆCILODRYAS NITIDA*, sp. nov.

Above olive ; upper tail-coverts tinged with yellow and edged with brighter yellow ; head-feathers subsquamate, slightly tinged with orange and obscurely edged with brown ; a large silky-white malar spot continuous with a similar loreal spot, which towards the forehead becomes greenish on the tips ; ear-coverts fuscous washed with yellowish green ; chin grey, tinged with yellow ; sides of throat fuscous, barred with white margins ; rest of lower surface bright yellow ; under wing-coverts lemon-yellow ; wing and tail brown ; primaries edged with grey ; secondaries, primary-coverts, and rectrices with olive : "iris brown ; beak grey, black at point ; feet grey." Length 128 mm., wing 68, tail 67, culmen 8.5, tarsus 11.

"Female : Boirave, July 14th, 1896 ; contents of stomach, insects. Native name 'Totodidiari.'"

10. PÆCILODRYAS CANICEPS, sp. nov. +

Above, edges of wing-coverts, of remiges, and rectrices olive-green; head above and on the sides dull brownish grey; chin and throat pale grey, varied with darker; upper breast yellowish green; lower breast and abdomen bright yellow, deepening to nearly orange-yellow on the under tail-coverts; wing and tail fuscous brown, under surface of wing rather paler, with ashy edging to the quills; under wing-coverts pale fuscous, tipped with yellow; tail beneath dark brown, strongly washed with olive, the shafts white: bill black; legs and feet horn-brown. Length 160 mm., wing 85, tail 70, tarsus 25.

Description taken from a spirit-specimen.

11. PÆCILODRYAS LORALIS, sp. nov. +

Above delicate ash-grey, becoming whitish on the rump and upper tail-coverts, brownish black on the head; wing and tail uniform blackish brown; whole body beneath, face, and a large loreal patch nearly covering the forehead white; spot before the eye black; under wing-coverts dark brown: bill, legs, and feet black. Length 155 mm., wing 100, tail 65, culmen 10, tarsus 21.

Description taken from two spirit-specimens.

12. PÆCILODRYAS SUBCYANEA, sp. nov. +

Evidently the eastern representative of *P. cyanea*, Salvad., from which it differs in the almost entire absence of the white bases of the remiges, one specimen only showing a trace of them, in the feathers of the lower abdomen and the under tail-coverts being tipped with white or buff, except in one other specimen in which the white tips are obsolete, and in the throat being fringed with brown. Of *P. cyanea* Dr. Gadow says (Brit. Mus. Cat. viii. p. 183) that the scales in the front of the tarsus are fused into one long scutum; in the present bird they are distinct. Length 155 mm., wing 94, tail 64, culmen 15, tarsus 27.

Described from four spirit-specimens.

13. GERYGONE MURINA, sp. nov. +

Above olive-brown, purer brown on the head and upper

tail-coverts, the latter darker; feathers of front, lores, and cheeks mottled with lighter tips and darker centres; ear-coverts brown, slightly rufescent; beneath dingy yellowish white to pale fawn on lower breast and white on middle of abdomen; rectrices olive, with a broad fuscous shading near the tips, which are grey on the mesials, white on the laterals, the outermost tip broad and well defined on the inner web; axillaries, metacarpal edge, and under wing-coverts pale lemon-yellow; wing- and primary-coverts fuscous, edged with olive-brown; inner webs of remiges edged with grey; base of under mandible whitish; under surface of toes yellow: "iris straw-yellow; beak corneous; feet light corneous in male, corneous in female." Length 100 mm., wing 60, tail 39, culmen 8, tarsus 18.

"Male and female: Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200 feet; contents of stomach, insects."

Approximates to *G. magnirostris*, Gld., but has a longer bill, shorter tail, and the upper surface olive.

14. *GERYGONE BRUNNEA*, sp. nov.

All above brown, slightly tinged with olive; wings fuscous brown, with a broad subterminal fuscous band, the two outermost rectrices tipped with brownish grey; all beneath, under wing-coverts, and inner edges of remiges dingy fulvous white, more nearly pure white on abdomen; cheeks as the under surface, but with fuscous mottling: bill black; legs and feet brown. Length 105 mm., wing 62, tail 40, culmen 7.5, tarsus 18.5.

Described from a spirit-specimen.

Fam. LANIIDÆ.

15. *GRALLINA BRUIJNI*, Salvad.

Male. Above blue-black; wing-coverts, except the outermost of the greater and all the primary series, white; secondaries and tertials fringed with white, forming with the coverts a continuous white band across the rump; lores, cheeks, and all beneath to abdomen (its sides included) black; a supraorbital stripe behind the eye, the ear-coverts, and sides of neck white; middle of abdomen, thighs, crissals, under tail-coverts, and basal three-fifths of the tail white,



De Vis, Charles Walter. 1897. "XXIX.—Diagnoses of Thirty-six new or little-known Birds from British New Guinea." *Ibis* 3, 371–392.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1474-919x.1897.tb03284.x>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54800>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1474-919x.1897.tb03284.x>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/172055>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.