



GRASPEDOPHORA MAGNIFICA.

CRASPEDOPHORA MAGNIFICA.

New-Guinea Rifle-bird.

- Le Proméfil*, Levaill. Ois. de Parad. p. 36, pl. 16 (1806).—Less. H. N. Ois. Parad. pl. 29 (1835).
Falcinellus magnificus, Vieill. N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xxviii. p. 167, pl. G 80. no. 3 (1818).
Epimachus splendidus, Steph. Gen. Zool. xiv. p. 77 (1826).
Epimachus magnificus, Wagler, Syst. Av., *Epimachus*, sp. 10 (1827).—Cuvier, Règne Anim. 1829, p. 440.—Less. Cent. Zool. p. 22, pls. 4, 5 (1830).—Id. Ois. Parad. Syn. p. 27 (1835).—Id. H. N. Ois. Parad. p. 218, pls. 32–34 (1835).—Bp. Consp. i. p. 412 (1850).—Gray, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 155.—Schl. J. f. O. 1861, p. 386; id. Mus. P. B., *Coraces*, p. 96 (1867).
Craspedophora magnifica, Gray, List Gen. B. p. 15 (1841).—Reichenb. Handb. *Scansoriae*, p. 330, Taf. lxi. figs. 4089–91 (1850).—Wall. P. Z. S. 1862, p. 160.—Rosenb. J. f. O. 1864, p. 128.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. ix. p. 191 (1874).
Epimachus paradiseus, Gray, Gen. B. ii. pl. xxxii. (nec Swains.).
Ptilornis magnificus, Gray, Handl. B. i. p. 105 (1869).
Ptiloris magnificus, Elliot, P. Z. S. 1871, p. 583.—Id. Mon. Parad. pl. xxiii. (1876).—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 785 (1874).
Ptilorhis superbus, Beccari, Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 173 (1875).—Sclater, Ibis, 1876, p. 252.
Ptilorhis magnifica, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 158 (1877).
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SEVERAL years ago I described and figured a species of Rifle-bird from North-eastern Australia as *Ptilorhis magnifica*; and for a long time it was supposed by ornithologists that one species was common to New Guinea and the Cape-York peninsula. Mr. Elliot, however, in his work on the Birds of Paradise, pointed out certain differences between these two forms, which appear to justify their specific separation, and adopted for the Cape-York species the MS. name of *Ptilornis alberti*, proposed by the late Mr. G. R. Gray, after a study of the specimens in the British Museum. Mr. Bowdler Sharpe also concurs in the specific separation of these two Rifle-birds; and he points out that in the male of *P. magnifica* the breast becomes purple below the double pectoral band, and has not the oily-green lustre which distinguishes the same sex of *P. alberti*. I must also mention that the metallic lustre on the pectoral shields of these birds is of a different hue, although perhaps the greatest difference between the two species is exhibited by the female birds. Thus, the female of the New-Guinea Rifle-bird is entirely rufous on the upper surface, and has the head of the same colour as the back, whereas in the female of Prince Albert's Rifle-bird the head is ashy brown. As is the case with so many of the birds of New Guinea, we know nothing of the habits of the Rifle-bird inhabiting that region; but we may well suppose that they do not differ from those described by me in my work on the Birds of Australia. Dr. Beccari states that the eggs of the New-Guinea Rifle-bird have been discovered by one of Mr. Bruijn's hunters "in the branches of a tree called at Ternate 'Kaju tjapilong,' which is the *Calophyllum inophyllum*." He adds, "At present I have not the eggs before me; so I will write about them more fully another time, when I have been able to examine the man who found them."

The following descriptions are taken from Mr. Bowdler Sharpe's Catalogue of Birds.

"*Male*. Top of head and occiput, centre of throat, and entire upper part of breast shining bluish green, purple in certain lights; entire upper parts deep velvety black, with rich dark purple reflections; primaries black, with green reflections; a narrow line of green, red in some lights, beneath the metallic of the breast; flanks and abdomen purple; side plumes also purple, basal half and filamentary ends black; two centre tail-feathers shining green; remainder velvety black, with green reflections on their outer webs; bill, feet, and legs stout, black.

"*Female*. Above cinnamon-rufous, the wings and tail entirely of the same colour as the back, the inner webs browner; over the eye a narrow streak of white; lores and sides of face dusky brown, the former washed with rufous; the ear-coverts minutely streaked with rufous along the shafts of the feathers; cheeks white, the feathers somewhat scaly in appearance; a malar streak of dark brown on each side of the throat;

throat white, slightly mottled with minute dusky cross markings; rest of under surface of body dull white, very numerous and thickly barred across with dusky blackish. Total length 12 inches, culmen 1·95, wing 6·6, tail 4·45, tarsus 1·65.

“*Young male*. Similar to the adult female, but of a deeper rufous, the head and neck rather dingier than the back; a tolerably well-defined white eyebrow, the feathers edged with brown; lores and ear-coverts dusky chocolate-brown, with very few ochraceous shaft-streaks; under surface of body dirty white, very thickly barred across with black; the flank-plumes elongated, but barred exactly like the breast; from the base of the lower mandible a malar streak of dusky black, continued down the sides of the throat onto the sides of the chest. Total length 14·5 inches, culmen 2·3, wing 6·95, tail 4·9, tarsus 1·65.”

It will be seen that I have not followed the nomenclature employed by me in the Supplement to the ‘Birds of Australia.’ The present bird and *P. alberti* ought to be placed in a separate genus from that which contains *P. paradisea* and *P. victoriæ*; and I therefore propose to adopt Mr. G. R. Gray’s generic name of *Craspedophora* for the above two birds.

The figures represent a male and a female, about the natural size, drawn from specimens in my collection.



Gould, John and Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1879. "Craspedophora magnifica, New-Guinea Rifle-bird [Pl. 13]." *The birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands : including many new species recently discovered in Australia* 1(IX), -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322614>.

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