



PARADIGALLA CARUNCULATA.

PARADIGALLA CARUNCULATA, Lesson.

Wattled Bird of Paradise.

- Paradigalla carunculata*, Less. Ois. Parad. p. 242 (1835); id. Rev. Zool. 1840, p. 1; Bp. Consp. i. p. 414 (1850); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 6; Wall. P. Z. S. 1862, p. 160; id. Malay Arch. ii. p. 257 (1869); Elliot, Monogr. Parad. pl. xvii. (1873); Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. vii. p. 784 (1875); Beccari, t. c. p. 711 (1875); Sclater, Ibis, 1876, p. 250; Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. ix. p. 190 (1877); Sharpe, Catalogue of Birds, iii. p. 165 (1877).
- Astrapia carunculata*, Eyndoux et Souleyet, Voy. Bonite, p. 83, pl. 4 (1841); Gray, Gen. B. ii. p. 326 (1846); Schlegel, J. f. O. 1861, p. 386; Rosenb. J. f. O. 1864, p. 131; Gray, Handl. B. ii. p. 17 (1870).

THE extreme rarity of the present species in European collections may be imagined from the fact that Mr. Elliot, when writing his monograph of the birds of Paradise five years ago, could only cite two specimens as existing in the museums of the world. One of these was the original specimen procured by MM. Eyndoux and Souleyet during the voyage of the 'Bonite,' and still preserved in the Paris Museum; and the second example was contained in the rich collection of the Philadelphia Academy. Since that time, however, perfect specimens have been obtained by the European travellers who have visited and explored the Arfak Mountains in North-western New Guinea.

It appears, indeed, to be somewhat rare even in this part of the great Papuan island; for out of five hundred and thirty-two specimens of Paradise-birds forwarded to Italy by Dr. Beccari and Mr. Bruijn, only fifteen belonged to the present species. The more recent explorers, MM. Laglaize and Raffray, have also met with the bird; and I possess in my own collection a fine pair procured by M. Laglaize in the Arfak Mountains.

Very little has been recorded concerning the habits of the Wattled Bird of Paradise, as the original discoverers did not themselves meet with the species in a living state; and the first person who has given us any account of the bird is Dr. Beccari, who has done so much to make us acquainted with the economy of the Paradiseidae. In his Ornithological Letter, he writes:—"As to *Paradigalla carunculata*, I shot one from my hut, whilst it was eating the small fleshy fruits of an *Urtica*. It likes to sit on the tops of dead and leafless trees, like the *Mino dumonti*. The finest ornament of this bird are the wattles, which in the dried skin lose all their beauty. The upper ones, which are attached one on each side of the forehead, are yellow; those at the base of the lower mandible are blue, and have a small patch of orange-red beneath. The Arfaks call the *Paradigalla* 'Happoa.'"

As is the case with so many of the Birds of Paradise, the genus *Paradigalla* contains but one single species; and indeed it is impossible to find any one which is nearly allied to it. Its somewhat elongated tail places it close to *Astrapia*, which it also resembles in not possessing any of the wiry shafts which adorn the tail-feathers of most of the forms of Paradiseidae. A glance at the Plate of *Astrapia nigra* will show how entirely different it is even from that, its nearest ally.

The following description is taken from Mr. Sharpe's 'Catalogue of Birds':—

Adult male. General colour velvety black above and below, a little browner on the under surface; wings and tail black, the inner secondaries with a purplish gloss under certain lights; head glossed with metallic steel-green; forehead, lores, and base of lower mandible bare; over each nostril a small tuft of black feathers; on each side of the base of the bill an erect wattled skin; round the eye a ring of black plumes; space below and behind the eye bare; bill and legs black. Total length 11·2 inches, culmen 0·55, wing 6·15, tail 4·85, tarsus 1·9.

Adult female. Similar to the male, but smaller.

The figures in the accompanying Plate represent the pair of birds in my own collection, obtained by M. Laglaize in the Arfak Mountains. For the opportunity of figuring the wattles as they appear in a state of nature, I am indebted to my friend Mr. D. G. Elliot, who sent me a sketch of these parts coloured from the recently killed bird by M. Raffray.



Gould, John and Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1878. "Paradigalla carunculata, Wattled Bird of Paradise [Pl. 16]." *The birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan islands : including many new species recently discovered in Australia* 1(VII), –. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322616>.

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