XANTHOMELUS AUREUS (*Linn.*).

Golden Bird of Paradise.

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The line of demarcation between the Birds of Paradise and the Bower-birds has never been easy of definition, and some naturalists, like Mr. D. G. Elliot and Count Salvadori, have united the two families together. As the nesting-habits and bower-building propensities of the two groups are gradually being discovered, it would seem that many of the species hitherto considered to be true Birds of Paradise are also the frequenters of "playing-grounds," after the manner of the Bower-birds.

The present species has generally been placed at the end of the series of Birds of Paradise, as being apparently the nearest ally of the Bower-birds of the genus *Amblyornis*, and the coloration of the females and young birds so closely resembles that of a Bower-bird that there is nothing remarkable in the fact that, when they were first discovered by Baron von Rosenberg, they were described by Professor Schlegel as *Sericulus xanthogaster* and afterwards placed by Mr. Elliot in the genus *Chlamydodera*.

The nesting-habits of the Golden Bird of Paradise are not yet exactly known. Dr. Beccari was informed by the natives that it nested on the ground, but he was not able to discover whether it made a