

## DIPHYLLODES CHRYSOPTERA, *Elliot.*

### Golden-winged Bird of Paradise.

- Diphyllodes speciosa*, pt., Schl. Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk. iv. pp. 17, 50 (1871).—Rosenb. Reist. naar Geelvinkb. p. 56 (1875).—Id. Malay. Arch. p. 557 (1879).—Id. Mitth. orn. Ver. Wien, 1885, p. 31.
- Diphyllodes chrysoptera*, Gould, MSS.
- Diphyllodes speciosus*, var. *chrysopterus*, Elliot, Monogr. Parad. pl. 13 (1873, *ex* Gould).
- Diphyllodes chrysoptera*, Meyer, Mitth. Zool. Mus. Dresden, i. p. 6, note (1875).—Beccari, Ann. Mus. Genov. vii. p. 710 (1875).—Salvad. t. c. p. 971 (1875).—Id. op. cit. ix. p. 192 (1876).—Gould, B. New Guinea, i. pl. 23 (1876).—Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 175 (1877).—Eudes-Deslongch. Ann. Mus. Caen, i. p. 33 (1880).—Salvad. Orn. Papuasias, ii. p. 641 (1882).—Guillem. P. Z. S. 1885, p. 654.—Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. iv. p. iii (1894).
- Paradisca chrysoptera*, Musschenbr. Dagboek, pp. 190, 222 (1883).
- Diphyllodes jobiensis*, Meyer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. ii. p. 388 (1885).—Id. Ibis, 1886, p. 256.—D'Hamonv. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1886, p. 510.—Salvad. Agg. Orn. Papuasias, ii. p. 161 (1890).—Meyer, J. f. O. 1892, p. 262.

This species was described from two skins, of native preparation, in the collection of the late Mr. Gould. No clue to their exact habitat was received with them, and Mr. Elliot described them as a new species, using Mr. Gould's MSS. name of *D. chrysoptera*. Since that time the utmost confusion has prevailed with regard to this species, and to this result, in common with other ornithologists, I have myself contributed.

The presence of a golden wing in specimens of *Diphyllodes* from South-eastern New Guinea led me to believe that in the examples from the south-eastern part of that great island was found a form of *Diphyllodes* identical with the skins in the Gould collection, and I therefore identified specimens from the Astrolabe Range as *D. chrysoptera*. This proves to have been a mistake, and I have now not the least doubt that the typical specimens came from the island of Jobi, as they agree absolutely with a specimen in the collection of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, obtained on that island by Dr. Guillemard. In this conclusion I am supported by Count Salvadori, who examined with me the specimens in the Rothschild collection.

The chief characters of *D. chrysoptera*, as distinguished from *D. speciosa*, are the golden wing and the deep crimson colour of the mantle, which is of so deep a crimson as to be almost blackish or deep claret-colour. The bird from South-eastern New Guinea possesses the golden wing, but has the mantle of a much more fiery hue, so that it is a very conspicuous feature in the species. Specimens from the Finisterre Mountains and from Kaiser Wilhelm's Land may, and doubtless do, belong to a slightly intermediate race, but the dark-mantled Jobi race is the true *D. chrysoptera*. Of this fact, the comparison of the types with the Jobi specimen in the Rothschild collection leaves no matter of a doubt.

Dr. Meyer described his *D. jobiensis* as having bronzy reflexions on the abdomen. This is a character which I believe to be due to the abrasion of the plumage, or, in many cases, to the method of drying the skins by native hunters. In a series of skins of *Diphyllodes* recently examined by me this bronzy coloration was very apparent in many individuals, and without doubt was due to the way in which the skins had been dried by artificial heat, or by exposure to damp. The fine specimen obtained by Dr. Guillemard shows that in perfectly preserved skins this bronzy shade is entirely absent.

*D. chrysoptera* may therefore be described as similar to *D. magnifica*, but distinguished by the golden wing. Total length 6·8 inches, culmen 0·8, wing 4·4, tail 1·55, tarsus 1·3.

The above measurements have been taken from Dr. Guillemard's Jobi specimen in the Rothschild Museum.

The Plate represents a male in two positions, drawn from the original types of *D. chrysoptera*.