

DIPHYLLODES SELEUCIDES, *Less.*

Lesson's Bird of Paradise.

Le Manucode à bouquet, ou le Magnifique, Le Vaill. Ois. Parad. i. pls. 9, 10 (1806).

Magnificent Paradise-Bird, Lath. Gen. Hist. iii. p. 189, pl. xlv. (1822).

Diphyllodes seleucides, Lesson, Ois. Parad. pp. 16, 191, pls. 19, 20 (1835).—Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, iv. p. xiii (1894).—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) xvi. p. 111 (1896).

? *Diphyllodes magnificus*, Lesson, Compl. Buff., Ois. p. 466 (1838).

TOWARDS the end of the year 1895, Mr. Dunstall, to whom the British Museum owes many fine acquisitions from New Guinea, brought for my inspection a large number of skins of *Diphyllodes*, which had been sent over to this country for the decoration of ladies' hats. There were over a hundred of these skins, and among them were one or two specimens of *D. magnifica*, but the bulk consisted of a form of *Diphyllodes* which I had not seen before.

The specimens were believed to have come from the Arfak district, but the actual locality was unknown to Mr. Dunstall. Instead of having pale ochre-coloured wings, the latter were yellow, and this colour was very fairly constant in the large series examined by me. Although in a few examples a tendency to orange on the wings was exhibited, none of these approached the deep colour of *D. chrysoptera* or *D. hunsteini*.

Although it is very difficult to determine the species figured in the works of the old authors, I believe that we may safely attach to this Arfak bird the name of *D. seleucides* of Lesson; and doubtless some of the synonymy placed under the heading of *D. magnifica* really belongs to *D. seleucides*, but it is impossible to determine this point at the present day.

The existence of this race of *Diphyllodes* was known to Count Salvadori, who had some specimens before him from Andai and Mount Arfak when he was writing the 'Ornitologia della Papuasie,' and he remarked on the brighter colour of the wings in the males from these localities, which showed an approach to *D. chrysoptera* of Jobi Island. Whether a complete connection will some day be found between the three species of *Diphyllodes* which inhabit North-western New Guinea, can only be proved by some naturalist who is fortunate enough to have time and opportunity to follow up the exact distribution of these birds.

The present species, as will be seen from the figures in the Plate, is very similar to *D. magnifica*, but differs, as has been pointed out above, in the richer yellow colour of its wings. The specimens figured are in the British Museum.