

The true *Paradisea minor* is found in the mountains of North-western New Guinea, especially in the Arfak district, having been procured at Andai, Mansema, Profi, and Mori by Dr. Beccari and Mr. Bruijn's hunters. Signor d'Albertis met with it at Emberbaki, and Dr. Beccari at Wa Samson and Dorei Hum. Dr. A. R. Wallace obtained specimens at Dorei, and he believes that the species is found on Salawati. The same traveller met with it in the island of Mysol. Solomon Müller noticed the species at Lobo and on the Atanata River, and the Hon. Walter Rothschild possesses specimens from Etna Bay and Kapaur. It seems to occur both in the vicinity of the coast-region and on the high mountains as well, as it was found on the Arfak ranges near Profi and Mori by Dr. Beccari and by Mr. Bruijn's hunters at a height of 3400 feet.

A full account of the various observations of the habits of this species will be found in Count Salvadori's 'Ornitologia della Papuasias' and in Mr. Elliot's 'Monograph of the Paradiscidæ,' and I quote the most important of these observations in the present work.

Lesson's note is as follows, and deals with his experiences as Naturalist on board the 'Coquille':—
 "The small Emerald Bird of Paradise has the vivacious and agile movements and has much of the manners of a Crow. In the forests that it inhabits it seeks the summits of the tallest trees, and it descends to the lower branches to search for its food or to escape from the rays of the sun. It shuns the heat and loves the shade of the thick and bushy foliage of the teak-trees. It rarely leaves these trees in the middle of the day; and it is only in the morning and evening that it is seen seeking its food. Ordinarily, when it believes itself to be alone, it utters a sharp cry, frequently repeated, which can be imitated by the syllables *voake, voake, voako*, strongly articulated. These cries, at the time of our sojourn in New Guinea in July, appeared to us to be a call for the females, which were in parties of twenty individuals and responded from the surrounding trees, in a similar manner to the love-call. Never among these troops did we see more than one male strutting proudly in the midst of these plainly apparelled individuals, whilst he, plumed dandy, resembled a cock who shouts victory after having beaten a rival and gained the sovereignty of a poultry-yard. Is the little Emerald Bird of Paradise, then, a polygamist? or is the disproportionate number of females owing to the continual chase after the males, which causes this scarcity, whilst the females are neglected and allowed to live in peace without fear of man, having only to protect themselves from their natural enemies the beasts of the woods? Attracted by this *voake, voako*, we found it easy in our expeditions to follow the birds, discover and kill many. The first one we saw astonished us so much that the gun remained at rest in our hand, so great was our surprise. We walked with care in the tracks made by the wild boars in the thick and leafy forests in the neighbourhood of Dorey, when a male of this species passed over our heads with graceful and soft flight, and seemed to us like a meteor, of which the fiery tail left behind it a long streak of light. When an unaccustomed sound strikes the ear of the bird its note ceases and its movements are suspended, so that it becomes absolutely passive and remains hiding in the deep foliage which conceals it from the view of the hunter; but if the sound continues, it soon flies away. It perches upon the highest branches of the loftiest trees of New Guinea, and it is very difficult to shoot without using long-range guns. When it is only wounded it expires in the thickets; however, we happened one day to find, dying upon the banks of a pond in the bed of a half-dried torrent, one of the birds which had been wounded the day before. It is, then, in the evening or, better, the morning that the hunter must be on the watch, after having carefully reconnoitred the trees filled with fruit, to which the Paradise-birds resort. There, perfectly still, he awaits patiently the advent of the Birds of Paradise, soon foretold by their harsh and loud cry. At the time of our stay in this land of promise for naturalists (from the 29th of July to the 9th of August), these birds searched for the fleshy buds of the teak-trees, but above all for the pinky white, very mucilaginous fruits of the fig-tree (Amihou). We always found insects in their crops, and during our sojourn in Amboina two living specimens, which we saw alive at the house of a rich Chinese merchant, were fed with large cockroaches and boiled rice."

Dr. A. R. Wallace writes in his 'Malay Archipelago':—"The true Paradise-birds are omnivorous, feeding on fruit and insects—of the former preferring small figs; of the latter, grasshoppers, locusts, and phasmas, as cockroaches and caterpillars. When I returned home, in 1862, I was so fortunate as to find two adult males of this species in Singapore; and as they seemed healthy, and fed voraciously on rice, bananas, and cockroaches, I determined on giving a very high price asked for them—£100—and to bring them to England by the overland route under my own care. On my way home I stayed a week at Bombay to break the journey and to lay in a fresh stock of bananas for my birds.