

PARADISEA MARIÆ, *Reichenow.*

Mrs. Reichenow's Bird of Paradise.

Paradisea mariæ, Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. ii. p. 22 (1894).—Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, iv. p. xiii (1894).—Reichen. J. f. O. 1897, p. 222, Taf. v.

THIS species was discovered in the Finisterre Mountains, in German New Guinea, at a height of 1500 feet, and was described by Dr. Reichenow, the type specimen being in the Berlin Museum and, up to the time of writing, unique. Dr. Reichenow, however, has given a figure of the species in the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' from which one is able to gather that *Paradisea mariæ* partakes of the characters of *P. augustæ-victoriæ* and *Trichoparadisea gulielmi*. This opinion has been suggested to me by the notes given to me by Mr. Ernst Hartert, who recently examined the type specimen at the meeting of the German Ornithological Society in Dresden. The extent of the metallic-green colour on the forehead and throat is apparently the same as in *Trichoparadisea*, and the dissociated webbing of the tips of the long flank-feathers is another character in common with the last-named genus. The colour of the under surface recalls that of *P. minor*, but is not unlike that of *T. gulielmi* also. The colour of the long flank-feathers is different from that of both *T. gulielmi* and *P. augustæ-victoriæ*, but the dark stripes are like those of the latter bird; so that, on the whole, it seems to me more correct to compare *P. mariæ* with the last-named species rather than with *P. minor*.

Dr. Reichenow's description of the species is as follows:—"Distinguished from *P. minor* by the metallic-green forehead and vertex, by the paler yellow on the occiput, mantle, back, and wing-coverts, and by the reddish plumes of the train. Forehead and fore part of crown, as well as the lores and fore-part of cheeks and throat, metallic green; hind part of the head, nape, back, and lesser wing-coverts pale straw-yellow, lighter than in *P. minor*; greater wing-coverts only narrowly washed with straw-yellow on their edges, not yellow on the entire outer web or for the greater part of the feather, as in *P. minor*; rump slightly washed with straw-yellow. The brown colour on the wings, tail, and under surface of body resembles that of *P. minor*. The ornamental feathers on the flanks have a yellow ground-colour, washed with brownish red on the outer web, and especially on the inner one, afterwards becoming white with a brownish-red tint and then pure white at the tips; the shafts are partly yellow, partly reddish brown and white at their ends. Some of the outer flank-plumes have a brownish-red outer edge near the base, and this forms on the outspread feathers a continual red longitudinal stripe, whereas in *P. minor* it is formed of shorter and separate stripes of dark chestnut-brown. Owing to the mixture of white and brownish red the mass of the ornamental plumes has a kind of greyish-violet appearance. It is worthy of remark that the ornamental plumes are more close-set, as in *P. minor*; the single barbs show broad intervals, and those at the end of the feathers are without any trace of barbs. Total length 14 inches, wing 7·25, tail 5·5, bill 1·3, tarsus 1·8."

As there is no specimen of this Bird of Paradise in England, I have been unable to give a figure of it.