

PARADISEA APODA, Linn.

45.

Great Bird of Paradise.

- The Greater Bird of Paradise*, Edwards, Birds, iii. p. 110, pl. 110 (1750).—Lath. Gen. Syn. ii. p. 471 (1782).
L'Oiseau de Paradis, Briss. Orn. ii. p. 130, pl. xiii. fig. 1 (1760).—Montb. Hist. Nat. Ois. iii. p. 182.
Paradisea apoda, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 165 (1766).—Penn. Faun. Ind. p. 40 (1781).—Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 399 (1788).—Lath. Ind. Orn. i. p. 194 (1790).—Daud. Orn. ii. p. 270 (1800).—Cuvier, Règne Anim. i. p. 403 (1817, pt.).—Vieill. N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xxx. p. 110 (1819).—Temm. Man. d'Orn. p. lv (1820).—Ranz. Element. Zool. iii. pt. iv. p. 60 (1822).—Wagler, Syst. Av., Paradisea, sp. 1 (1827).—Cuvier, Règne Anim. i. p. 426 (1829).—Gray, Gen. B. ii. p. 322 (1847).—Bp. Consp. i. p. 412 (1850).—Cab. Mus. Hein. Th. i. p. 213 (1851).—Wall. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (2), xx. pp. 411, 476 (1857).—Selater, Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc. ii. p. 162 (1858).—Gray, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 193.—Id. Cat. B. New Guinea, pp. 35, 58 (1859).—Wall. Ibis, 1859, p. 111.—Gray, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 157.—Id. P. Z. S. 1861, p. 436.—Wall. Ibis, 1861, p. 289.—Schl. J. f. O. 1861, p. 384.—Wall. P. Z. S. 1862, pp. 153, 154, 160, 161.—Rosenb. Nat. Tijdschr. Nederl. Ind. xxv. p. 242 (1863).—Id. J. f. O. 1864, p. 126.—Finsch, Neu-Guinea, p. 173 (1865).—Schl. Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk. iii. p. 342 (1866).—Rosenb. Nat. Tijdschr. Nederl. Ind. xxix. p. 137 (1867).—Id. Reis naar de Zuidoostereil. p. 41 (1867).—Schl. Mus. Pays-Bas, Coraces, p. 79 (1867).—Wall. Malay Arch. ii. p. 390 (1869).—Gray, Hand-l. B. ii. p. 16, no. 6247 (1870).—Elliot, Monogr. Paradiseidae, pl. 2 (1873).—Brehm, J. f. O. 1875, p. 453.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. ix. p. 191 (1876).—Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 166 (1877).—Beccari, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov. ix. pp. 393-396 (1877).—Salvad. P. Z. S. 1878, p. 98.—Gould, B. New Guinea, i. pl. 30 (1879).—Rosenb. Malay. Arch. p. 366 (1879).—D'Albert. Nuova Guinea, pp. 116, 121, 133 (1880).—Eudes-Deslongch. Ann. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. Caen, i. p. 20 (1880).—Salvad. Orn. Papuasie, ii. p. 594 (1881).—Id. Rep. Voy. H.M.S. 'Challenger,' Birds, p. 81 (1881).—Cory, Beautiful and Curious Birds, pl. 18 (1883).—Musschenbr. Dagboek, pp. 176, 219 (1883).—Meyer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. p. 293, taf. 17. fig. 2 (1884).—Rosenb. MT. orn. Ver. Wien, 1885, p. 17 (pt.).—Guillem. P. Z. S. 1885, p. 652.—D'Hamonv. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1886, p. 509.—Bartlett, P. Z. S. 1887, p. 392.—Salvad. Agg. Orn. Papuasie, ii. p. 159 (1890).
L'Oiseau de Paradis des Moluques, Daubent. Pl. Enl. iii. p. 254.
Great Bird of Paradise from Aroo, Forrest, Voy. New Guinea, p. 135 (1780, teste Salvadori).
Paradisea major aruana, Forster, Zool. Ind. p. 31 (1781).
L'Émeraude, Audeb. et Vieill. Ois. Dor. ii. p. 9, pl. 1 (1802).
Le Grand Oiseau de Paradis Émeraude, Levaill. H. N. Ois. de Parad. i. pls. 1 & 3 (1806, nec pl. 2 = *P. minor*).
Paradisea major, Shaw, Gen. Zool. vii. p. 480, pl. 58 (1809).—Less. Traité, p. 336 (1831).—Id. Ois. de Paradis, Syn. p. 6.—Id. Hist. Nat. p. 155, pl. 6 (1835, nec descr. ♀).—Id. Compl. Buff. p. 458 (1838, nec descr. ♀).
Paradisea smaragdina, Dumont, Dict. Sci. Nat. xxxvii. p. 501 (1825).
Paradisea apoda, var. *wallaciana*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1858, pp. 181, 193.—Id. Cat. B. New Guinea, pp. 35, 58 (1859).—Id. P. Z. S. 1859, p. 158.—Rosenb. Reis naar de Zuidoostereil. p. 45 (1867).
Great Bird of Paradise, Wall. Malay Arch. ii. p. 252, cum fig. (1869).

As duly recorded by Count Salvadori, who has written an excellent monographic account of this species, it enjoys a somewhat notable history. It is the original "Bird of Paradise," the bird without any feet (hence the name *apoda* of Linnæus), which flew about continuously and never slept, unless when resting for a few moments suspended by the long wire-like appendages to the central tail-feathers. In a cavity in the back of the male the female laid her eggs, and by a convenient depression in the breast of the hen bird the latter was enabled to sit and hatch out her offspring, and further myths ennobled the reproduction of the Birds of "Paradise."

It is sad to have to dispel these fanciful illusions, which arose from a very simple cause. The earliest skins of this magnificent bird reached Europe in the usual rough way in which the natives prepared them, generally without feet, sometimes too without wings, and only one traveller, Antonio Pigafetta, seems to have stated that the species really possessed feet like any other bird, as recorded by Aldrovandus. This record, nevertheless, did not prevent Linnæus from applying the name *apoda*, or "footless," bird to the species. It was even said to migrate from the Aru Islands to New Guinea and back.

The first traveller who gave an account of the species as it really exists was undoubtedly Dr. A. R. Wallace, from whose work on the 'Malay Archipelago' the following extracts have been taken:—

"When the earliest European voyagers reached the Moluccas in search of cloves and nutmegs, which were then rare and precious spices, they were presented with the dried skins of birds so strange and beautiful as to excite the admiration even of those wealth-seeking rovers. The Malay traders gave them the name of 'Manuk dewatee' (or God's birds); and the Portuguese, finding that they had no feet or wings, and not being