

upon insufficient details. The first available name for the species is *P. nigricans* of Shaw, though such a title is not particularly applicable to a bird which is yellow underneath, but the name has been adopted by Count Salvadori, and recent ornithologists have followed him.

The genus *Seleucides* is remarkable for the elongated shafts to the flank-plumes, which represent six thread-like wires on each side of the body. The tail is square and not lengthened as in *Epimachus*; but the genus *Seleucides* belongs to the same long-billed section of the Birds of Paradise, which also includes the Rifle-birds (*Ptilorhis*) and the Sickle-billed genus *Drepanornis*. It differs from the latter in its thread-like flank-shafts, and from *Ptilorhis* in the want of a metallic pectoral shield.

The Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise is only found in New Guinea and the adjoining island of Salawati. In the latter it has been obtained by Dr. Wallace, by Bernstein, von Rosenberg, and Dr. Beccari. In New Guinea it has been found in the north-western and in the south-eastern districts. Thus Dr. Wallace met with the species at Dorei, von Rosenberg at Andai, Dr. Beccari at Wa Samson, D'Albertis at Sorong, and Dr. Beccari again at Mesan.

In South-eastern New Guinea D'Albertis procured a large series on the Fly River, and it has been obtained in the Port Moresby district. Mr. Goodwin tells me that on Sir William MacGregor's Expedition to Mount Victoria the species was not obtained inland, owing to the rapidity with which the Expedition travelled, but its note was heard on many occasions. It frequents the low and swampy districts near the coasts, where it is difficult to reach, as it generally sits perched on a dead tree in the middle of a swamp. Its call-note can be heard from a long distance off: it consists of a double note, difficult to imitate, even by the natives of the country. D'Albertis says that he found the bird to be solitary and frequently resting on the dead branch of a tree, uttering its note, which sounded like *Có-có-có*, in the early morning at the rising of the sun: during the day it was silent. The Hon. Walter Rothschild has received specimens from Mount Victoria, and he speaks of it as a lowland species, "evidently common about sixty miles inland from Port Chalmers, west of Port Moresby." Dr. Loria has obtained the species at Veimaui, on the left bank of the Vanapa, in October.

The following account of the species is given by Dr. A. R. Wallace in his 'Malay Archipelago':—  
"The Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise is found in the islands of Salawati and in the north-western parts of New Guinea, where it frequents flowering-trees, especially sago-palms and *Pandani*, sucking the flowers, round and beneath which its unusually large and powerful feet enable it to cling. Its motions are very rapid. It seldom rests more than a few moments on one tree, after which it flies straight off, and with great swiftness, to another. It has a loud shrill cry, to be heard a long way, consisting of 'cáh-cáh,' repeated five or six times in a descending scale; and at the last note it generally flies away. The males are quite solitary in their habits, although, perhaps, they assemble at certain times like the true Paradise-birds. All the specimens shot and opened by my assistant Mr. Allen, who obtained this fine bird during his last voyage to New Guinea, had nothing in their stomachs but a brown sweet liquid, probably the nectar of the flowers on which they had been feeding. They certainly, however, eat both fruit and insects; for a specimen, which I saw alive on board a Dutch steamer, ate cockroaches and paya fruit voraciously. This bird had the curious habit of resting at noon with the bill pointing vertically upwards. It died on the passage to Batavia; and I secured the body and formed a skeleton, which shows indisputably that it is really a Bird of Paradise. The tongue is very long and extensible, but flat, and a little fibrous at the end, exactly like the true Paradiseæ.

"In the island of Salawati the natives search in the forests till they find the sleeping-place of this bird, which they know by seeing its dung upon the ground. It is generally in a low bushy tree. At night they climb up the tree, and either shoot the birds with blunt arrows, or even catch them alive with a cloth. In New Guinea they are caught by placing snares on the trees frequented by them, in the same way as the Red Paradise-birds are caught in Waigiou."

The first specimen of this species brought alive to Europe was apparently a bird presented by Signor G. E. Serruti to the King of Italy. It survived but a few months. Another specimen was received by the Zoological Society of London in 1881, where it lived for nearly twelve months. Dr. Guillemard gives the following note on one of these birds which was captured alive in Salawati and lived for some time on board the 'Marchesa':—"During our visit to Salawati we were fortunate enough to acquire a living specimen of this exquisite species. The way they are caught appears almost incredible. The native searches in the forest until, by the droppings, he has discovered the usual roosting-place of the species. He conceals himself beneath the tree to discover the exact branch chosen by the bird, and then climbing up at night, quietly places a cloth over it. The species being exceedingly fond of the fruit of the *Pandanus*,