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to Dr. Beccari by native hunters, it builds a nest on a branch of a tree. Macgillivray, on the contrary, heard from the natives of Cape York that the Rifle-bird of that country laid white eggs, which were placed in the hole of a tree. Count Salvadori inclines to the opinion that the latter mode of nidification is more probably the correct one; but my own opinion is that, when we obtain reliable information about the breeding-habits of the genus *Ptilorhis*, the species will be found to place their nests in the open and on the branches of trees, as Beccari's hunters have stated.

Signor D'Albertis states that in its habits the Rifle-bird is very shy, and it is impossible to hunt it; but by imitating its cry, which consists of three distinct notes—*oooih*, *oooih*, *oooih*—it may be brought within range of its pursuer, for the bird, overcome with curiosity to find out who is daring to try and charm his female, comes at last to the outside of the trees, craning his neck in all directions on the look-out for the intruder, when of course he pays the penalty for his curiosity and jealousy.

According to Signor D'Albertis the food of the present species consists of seeds and fruits as well as insects.

The bird named *Ptilorhis wilsoni* by Dr. Ogden, and figured in the 'Proceedings' of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, seems to be a made-up specimen, and the differences founded on the structure of the legs cannot be of any value, as it has since been found that they belong to some other bird. Count Salvadori thinks that otherwise it may be a representative of the large race from Triton Bay which Schlegel called *Paradisea magnifica major*. Salvadori also notes a large specimen from Sorong.

Adult male. General colour above velvety black with purplish reflections, the wing-coverts like the back, but not so glossy; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills black, externally glossed with steel-green, the innermost secondaries velvety black like the back; centre tail-feathers metallic steel-green, the remainder velvety blue-black, with a steel-green lustre on the outer edges of some of them; head and nape metallic green; lores, eyebrows, sides of face, cheeks, ear-coverts, and throat black, with a purple gloss; the centre of the throat metallic steel-green, widening out into a præpectoral shield, which shows purplish reflections under certain lights, and is followed by a band of velvety black like the sides of the neck; this band is again followed by a band of oily green across the upper breast; remainder of under surface of body dark purple; the abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts black, as well as the long flank-plumes; axillaries and under wing-coverts velvety black with a steel-blue gloss: "bill black; feet dull lead-colour" (*D'Albertis*); "iris nearly black; inside of mouth greenish yellow; bare space round eye black" (*Beccari*). Total length 13.5 inches, culmen 2.3, wing 7.3, tail 4.0, tarsus 1.6.

Adult female. Above cinnamon-rufous, the wings and tail entirely of the same colour as the back, the inner webs browner; over the eye a narrow streak of white; lores and sides of face dusky brown, the former washed with rufous; the ear-coverts minutely streaked with rufous along the shafts of the feathers; cheeks white, the feathers somewhat scaly in appearance; a malar streak of dark brown on each side of the throat; throat white, slightly mottled with minute dusky cross markings; rest of under surface of body dull white, very numerous and thickly barred across with dusky blackish. Total length 12 inches, culmen 1.95, wing 6.6, tail 4.45, tarsus 1.65.

Young male. Similar to the adult female, but of a deeper rufous, the head and neck rather dingier than the back; a tolerably well-defined white eyebrow, the feathers edged with brown; lores and ear-coverts dusky chocolate-brown, with a very few ochraceous shaft-streaks; under surface of body dirty white, very thickly barred across with black; the flank-plumes elongated, but barred exactly like the breast; from the base of the lower mandible a malar streak of dusky black, continued down the sides of the throat on to the sides of the chest. Total length 14.5 inches, culmen 2.3, wing 6.95, tail 4.9, tarsus 1.65.

Count Salvadori has described some of the changes by which the young males don the plumage of the adult, and believes that this is effected by a change of colouring in the feather itself rather than by a moult. Probably a partial moult also takes place, as is the case with *Ptilorhis paradisea*.

The descriptions are taken from examples in the British Museum, which also contains the specimens figured in the Plate. The latter were formerly in the Gould Collection.