

PITTA MAFORENSIS, Schlegel.

Mafoor-Island Pitta.

Pitta novæ guineæ mefoorana, Schlegel, Revue Coll. *Pitta* Mus. Pays-Bas, p. 8 (1874).—Meyer, in Dawson Rowley's 'Ornithological Miscellany,' pt. vii. p. 268 (1877).

This species was separated by Professor Schlegel in 1874 in his Review of the Pittas in the Leiden Museum under the trinomial title above quoted; and he apparently regards it as nothing but a race of *Pitta novæ guineæ*. In this conclusion I am unable to agree, as it seems to me to be a thoroughly well-marked species. It is nearly allied to the last-mentioned bird and to *Pitta rosenbergi*, but is distinct from both. It is of about the same size, and has the colour of the chest, breast, and nape of a fine glistening greenish white, as it exists in *P. novæ guineæ*, but more extended, the green of the chest blending into green and blue on the flanks.

Dr. Meyer did not get a *Pitta* on the island of Mafoor; but the Leiden Museum possesses four specimens, killed there in January and February 1869 by Von Rosenberg. Dr. Beccari also managed to procure some examples.

In describing the species, Professor Schlegel says that the Mafoor bird is similar to *P. novæ guineæ*, but has the tail-feathers more or less tipped with dirty green, the large upper tail-coverts black, with a fine blue edging, the smaller upper tail-coverts of a fine metallic whitish green, and the blue of the abdomen darker, the quills being without white spots. This constitutes, as far as I know, all that has been published respecting the present bird. The Plate represents a pair of these birds of the natural size. They form part of the rich collections made by Dr. Beccari in New Guinea and the islands of Geelvink Bay. They were kindly lent to me by Count Salvadori during his visit to this country; and to him I have once more to express my great appreciation of his kindness.

Total length $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, wing $5\frac{1}{4}$, tail $1\frac{1}{8}$, tarsus $1\frac{3}{4}$.

I must apologize for the oversight by which the name *maforensis* instead of *mafoorana* was printed on the Plate, as before I had discovered the mistake the whole impression had been printed off; and I thought it best in this instance to keep the name at the head of this article to harmonize it with that of the Plate, though I regret the *lapsus calami* which caused the error.

I regret that no further information should have reached me respecting this beautiful species, which finds a near ally in *P. novæ guineæ*. In size it is much the same; but the green of the under surface is suffused with luminous glistening green.