

DIPHYLLODES CHRYSOPTERA, *Gould.*

Golden-winged Bird of Paradise.

Diphyllodes chrysoptera, Gould, MS., *undè*
——— *speciosa*, var. *chrysoptera*, Elliot, Monogr. Parad. pl. 13.

I HAVE for a considerable time possessed specimens of the present bird, which I lent to Mr. Elliot for figuring in his monograph of the family. He does not, however, consider it more than a "variety" of the ordinary species, as will be seen from the account which I extract from his work:—

"The only difference perceptible between these specimens and those of the well-known species with which I have compared them is that the wings are of a golden colour. In size they are equal. I do not consider that there are sufficient grounds shown for naturalists to regard these birds as belonging to a species distinct from the *D. speciosa*; and I have given a representation of them merely to exhibit a form of variation to which perhaps *D. speciosa* is subject in certain localities. The exact place from which they come is not known. . . . The bird may be described as the same as *D. speciosa* with yellow secondaries."

I have reproduced Mr. Elliot's remarks because I wish my readers to know his exact opinion respecting the birds, especially as I am compelled to differ from him entirely in his belief that the present bird is nothing but a variety of *D. speciosa*. I possess two individuals of *D. chrysoptera*, both males, and agreeing with each other; and considering that only during the past year a new and beautiful species of this very genus has been discovered in the well-known island of Waigiou, I see nothing extraordinary in another island being the habitat of this, to me, very well-characterized bird. I consider it perfectly distinct from *D. speciosa*; and I am certain that before long its proper habitat will be brought to light.

The birds are represented of the natural size.