

SELEUCIDES NIGRICANS.

Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise.

- Le Manucode à douze filets*, Audeb. et Vieill. Ois. Dor. ii. p. 29, pl. 13.
Le Nébuleux, Levaill. Ois. de Parad. i. pls. 16, 17.
Le Promerops multifil, Levaill. H. N. Promer. et Guêp. pl. 17.
Paradisæa nigricans, Shaw, Gen. Zool. vii. pt. 2, p. 489 (1809).
 ——— *alba*, Blumenb. Abbild. nat. Gegenst. pl. 96.—Schleg. J. f. O. 1861, p. 386.
 ——— *resplendescens*, Vieill. Nouv. Dict. xxviii. p. 165.—Id. Galerie Ois. p. 107, pl. 185.
Epimachus albus, Temm. Man. d'Orn. i. p. lxxxvi.—Wagl. Syst. Av. 1827, *Epimachus*, sp. 9.—Gray, Gen. B. ii. p. 94.—Id. P. Z. S. 1858, p. 190.—Id. List B. New Guinea, pp. 21, 55.—Id. P. Z. S. 1861, p. 433.—Wallace, P. Z. S. 1862, p. 160.—Schleg. Mus. P.-B., *Coraces*, p. 95.—Id. Nederl. Tijdschr. Dierk. iv. p. 49.—Gray, Hand-l. B. i. p. 105.
Twelve-wired Paradise Bird, Lath. Gen. Hist. iii. p. 199, pl. 48.
Seleucides acanthylis, Less. H. N. Ois. Parad. pls. 36–38.—Id. Syn. p. 29.
Nematophora alba, Gray, List Gen. B. i. p. 12.
Seleucides alba, Gray, List Gen. B., Addenda, p. 1.—Bp. Consp. i. p. 412.—Cab. Mus. Hein. i. p. 215.—Reichenb. Handb. Spec. Orn. Scansoriæ, p. 331, taf. 612, figs. 4092, 4093.—Wallace, Malay Archip. ii. p. 250.—Elliot, Monogr. Parad. pl. xxii.—Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, vii. p. 785.—Beccari, *t. c.* p. 713.—Scl. P. Z. S. 1876, p. 252.
Ptiloris nebulosus, Licht. Nomencl. p. 10.
Seleucides resplendens, Rosenb. Nat. Tijdschr. Nederl. Ind. xxv. p. 238.—Id. J. f. O. 1864, p. 123.
Epimachus resplendens, Rosenb. Reist. naar Geelvinkb. pp. 101, 116.
Seleucides ignota, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, viii. p. 403; ix. p. 191; x. p. 154.—D'Albert. & Salvad. op. cit. xiv. p. 107.
 ——— *niger*, Sharpe, Cat. B. iii. p. 159.
Epimachus resplendescens, Rosenb. Malay Arch. p. 552.
Seleucides nigricans, Salvad. Orn. della Papuasias &c. p. 561 (1881).

THE list of names given above shows that this species of Bird of Paradise has been known to writers for a long period. Most of the synonymy I have derived from Mr. Bowdler Sharpe's 'Catalogue of Birds,' and from the more complete list of works given by Count Salvadori in his recently published book on the birds of New Guinea. When I state that I have by no means exhausted the synonymy of the species as set down by Count Salvadori, it may readily be imagined that the number of books in which reference is made to the species is very large indeed. I have not, however, full space for such lengthened synonymy in the present work, and must refer the reader to the above-mentioned volumes for further quotations. The Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise is the only representative of the genus *Seleucides*, which belongs to the slender-billed section of the Paradiseidæ. It is remarkable for its elongated flank-feathers, which are of a fine yellow colour, and have six shafts produced into thread-like plumes, whence the bird has received its ordinary English name. Unfortunately the beautiful yellow colour on the flanks fades away after death, and becomes white, when the bird loses much of its original beauty.

With regard to the nomenclature of the bird, I have come to the conclusion that the first name, which ought to be employed, is that of *nigricans* of Shaw, as has been set forth by Count Salvadori. As far as we know at present, it is entirely confined to New Guinea, over the whole of which great island it appears to be distributed. It is abundant on the Fly river, to judge by the large series obtained by Signor D'Albertis during his residence in Southern New Guinea. He found it living 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. Mr. Wallace, in his 'Malay Archipelago,' gives the following account of the species:—"The *Seleucides alba* is found in the island of Salwatty, 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