

## DREPANORNIS BRUIJNII, *Oustalet*.

### Bruijn's Bird of Paradise.

*Drepanornis bruijnii*, Oustalet, Bull. Assoc. Scient. de France, 1880, p. 172.—Salvad. Orn. Papuasie e delle Molucche, ii. p. 553 (1881).—Guillemard, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1885, p. 649.

It is much to be regretted that we have been unable to procure a fully adult bird for our illustration of the present species, for to all appearances the specimen which has been lent to us by Dr. Guillemard for the purposes of this work is immature. At the same time it is somewhat singular that all the specimens so far procured by Mr. Bruijn's hunters in North-western New Guinea have been similar to the bird here figured.

Dr. Guillemard, who obtained two specimens during the cruise of the 'Marchesa' with Mr. Kettlewell, gives the following account of his getting them :—"While in Ternate Mr. Bruijn showed me the skins of two birds of the genus *Drepanornis* obtained by his hunters on the north coast of New Guinea a little to the eastward of the mouths of the Amberbaki River. One was marked 'female,' the other 'male'; but both were destitute of any brilliant colouring whatsoever. . . . Mr. Bruijn informed me that his hunters had obtained seven or eight examples of this species, but that, though of different sexes, they were all of the same sober colouring. Judging from the habits of others of the *Paradiseidae*, notably in the case of *P. rubra*, where the immature males and females appear to live in districts quite apart from the adult male at certain seasons of the year, and from the fact that in this group of birds the males are all of brilliant colouring, we can safely predict that the adult male of this species has yet to be discovered, and that it will probably show a development of subalar plumes closely resembling that of *D. albertsi*."

It is no doubt true that when the fully-plumaged male becomes known considerable resemblance to the same sex of *D. albertsi* will be discovered, and a more accurate comparison of the two species will then be possible; but there can be no doubt that *D. bruijnii* is a well-marked species, even when founded on the immature bird. The size of the bill alone is sufficient to distinguish it, and the distribution of the bare patches on the face is also different; but the chief characters will no doubt be discovered when skins of the adult male are sent to Europe.

The following is a description of the specimen kindly lent to us by Dr. Guillemard :—

General colour above brown, with a slight tinge of olive; wing-coverts like the back, the outer median and the greater coverts washed externally with dull fawn-colour; bastard-wing and primary-coverts dusky brown, the latter shaded with fawn near the base; quills dusky brown, externally pale olive-brown, the secondaries washed with fawn-colour on the outer web; upper tail-coverts dull fawn-colour, washed with brown in the centre; tail-feathers clear fawn-colour; crown of head blackish, the feathers being of a velvety texture; the hind neck also shaded with blackish; sides of face bare; lores and a line of feathers from the gape along the side of the face blackish, the cheeks whitish brown, black anteriorly, followed by a broad malar line of black; throat and under surface of body pale fawn-buff, regularly barred with blackish, the throat and fore neck more dusky and the cross bars smaller and more indistinct; the abdomen clearer buff and the bars wider and more distinct; sides of body and flanks like the abdomen; thighs and under tail-coverts also fawn-buff, barred with blackish; under wing-coverts and axillaries paler fawn-buff than the breast and indistinctly barred; quills below dusky, fawn-buff along the inner edge. Total length 12 inches, culmen 2·7, wing 5·6, tail 4·3, tarsus 1·25.

The figure in the Plate represents the bird of the size of life and is taken from Dr. Guillemard's specimen mentioned above.

[R. B. S.]