

assumed a feminine appearance ; but birds, on the contrary, when the function of the ovary was destroyed, put on the male character.

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March 22nd, 1859.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. Gould exhibited and characterized two new species of birds, one belonging to the family *Cuculidæ*, the other to the *Coturniceæ*, and remarkable as forming probably the smallest species of the groups to which they respectively pertained.

For a small Shining Cuckoo, killed at Port Essington, on the north coast of Australia, and of the same form and very nearly allied to the *Chrysococcyx lucidus* of New South Wales and the *C. basalis* of Java, Mr. Gould proposed the name of *Chrysococcyx minutillus* ; and for the Quail, which belonged to the genus *Excalfactoria* of Bonaparte, that of *Excalfactoria minima*.

The following are the descriptions of these new species :—

**CHRYSOCOCCYX MINUTILLUS, Gould.**

Head, all the upper surface, and wings shining bronzy-green ; all the under surface white, barred with bronzy-green, the bars being most distinct on the flanks ; primaries and secondaries white on the basal portion of their inner webs ; two centre tail feathers bronzy-green ; the next on each side bronzy-green on the outer web, rufous on the inner web, crossed by a broad band of black near the tip, and with an oval spot of white across the tip of the inner web ; the two next on each side bronzy-green on their outer webs, their inner webs rufous, with large spots of black near the shaft, most conspicuous in the outermost of the two feathers ; their inner webs are also crossed near the tip with a very broad band of black, and have an oval spot of white at the tip ; the outer feather on each side is barred alternately on the outer web with dull bronzy-green and dull white, and on the inner one with broad decided bars of black and white, and tipped with white ; bill black ; feet olive.

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

*Remark.*—This bird is perhaps more nearly allied to the Java species, *C. basalis* of Horsfield, than to the *C. lucidus* ; but it is as much smaller than the *C. basalis* as that bird is less than *C. lucidus*. The type of *C. basalis*, which is the only one I have seen, is not a fully adult bird ; and yet the measurement of its wing exceeds by half an inch that of the *C. minutillus*.

**EXCALFACTORIA MINIMA, Gould.**

Forehead and sides of the head grey ; crown of the head, all the upper surface, and wing-coverts reddish-brown, conspicuously spotted

The sketch alluded to in the above extract having been placed in Mr. G. R. Gray's hands for examination and comparison with the other known species, the following notes of that gentleman, relative to it, were read to the meeting :—

“This Paradise-Bird proves, as Mr. Wallace remarks in his lettre, to be a new form, differing from all its congeners, approaching most nearly to the King Bird of Paradise ; but in place of the lengthened caudal appendages, it has, springing from the lesser coverts of each wing, two long shafts, both of which are webbed on each side at the apex. It is the possession of these peculiar winged standards that induces me to propose for it the subgeneric appellation of *Semioptera*.

“I have endeavoured to transform the rough sketch into the probable appearance of the living bird ; and I further add the provisional specific name of *Paradisea wallacii*, which appellation I think is justly due to Mr. Wallace for the indefatigable energy he has hitherto shown in the advancement of ornithological and entomological knowledge, by visiting localities rarely if ever travelled by naturalists.

“I wait for the arrival of the specimens before venturing to give more detailed accounts of its subgeneric characters, or a full description of its coloration, &c., which I hope to have the pleasure of laying before the members at some future meeting of the Society.”

Mr. G. R. Gray laid before the meeting a drawing of *Tringa pectoralis*, which was made by the late Mr. Adams, Surgeon of H.M.S. ‘Enterprise.’ It exhibited the bird in the act of having inflated its throat and breast in the manner of the Pouter Pigeon. From the correctness of the other drawings by the same gentleman, Mr. Gray had little doubt that Mr. Adams observed this singular phenomenon in the specimen from which the drawing was taken. The drawing was more especially placed before the members, in the hopes of learning whether such a singularity of habits had been noticed before in this species or in any other of the *Tringæ*.

The bird has peculiar feathers on its breast.

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