

and minutely freckled with brownish-black, a line of buff down the crown and nape, and a narrow line of brownish-white down the centre of the feathers, changing to broad and conspicuous stripes of buff on the lower part of the back and tail-coverts; wings pale brown; chin and throat black, on each side of which is an oblong patch of white enclosed by a narrow line of black; below the black a broad crescent of white, fringed on the sides with black, and bounded below by a narrow semi-crescent of deep black; under surface grey, mottled on the flanks like the upper surface; line down the centre of the abdomen, thighs, and under tail-coverts chestnut-red; bill black; feet yellowish.

Total length 3 inches, bill  $\frac{1}{2}$ , wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , tarsal  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Hab. Vicinity of Marauas, Celebes.

Remark.—For this, the most distinctive species of the *Gallinago* yet discovered, we are indebted to the researches of A. R. Wallace, Esq. It is of precisely the same form and very nearly allied to, but quite distinct from, the well-known Chinese Quail, *Excusinatoria chinensis* (*Cataracta chinensis* of authors).

The following extract from a Letter received by Mr. S. Stevens from Mr. Wallace, dated Batavia, Moluccas, Oct. 29, 1858, was read:—

"Here I have been as yet only five days; but from the nature of the country, and what I have already done, I am inclined to think it may prove one of the best localities I have yet visited. Birds are as yet very scarce; but I still hope to get a fine collection, though I believe I have already the *finest and most wonderful* bird in the island. I had a good mind to keep it a secret, but I cannot resist telling you. I have a new *Bird of Paradise!* of a new genus!! quite unlike anything yet known, very curious and very handsome!! When I can get a couple of pairs, I will send them overland, to see what a new *Bird of Paradise* will really fetch. Had I seen the bird in Ternate, I should never have believed it came from here, so far out of the hitherto supposed region of the *Paradisæideæ*. I consider it the greatest discovery I have yet made; and it gives me hopes of getting other species in Gilolo and Ceram. There is also here a species of Monkey—much further eastwards than in any other island; so you see this is a most curious locality, combining forms of the East and West of the Archipelago, yet with species peculiar to itself. It also differs from all the other Moluccas in its geological formation, containing iron, coal, copper, and gold, with a glorious forest vegetation and fine large mountain streams: it is a continent in miniature. The Dutch are working the coals; and there is a good road to the mines, which gives one easy access to the interior forests.

"I can do nothing at drawing birds, but send you a horrid sketch of my discovery, that you may not die of curiosity. I am told the wet season here is terrible, and it begins in December; so I shall probably have to leave thee."