

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 encircled 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 $2\frac{1}{2}$, tarsi $\frac{5}{8}$.

Hab. Vicinity of Macassar, Celebes.

Remark.—For this, the most diminutive species of the *Gallinacea* 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, *Excalfactoria chinensis* (*Coturnix chinensis* of authors).

The following extract from a Letter received by Mr. S. Stevens from Mr. Wallace, dated Batchian, 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 *Paradiseida*. 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 horrible 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 then.”

No. 392.—PROCEEDINGS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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 *Tringa*.

The bird has peculiar feathers on its breast.